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GIANT BOOK LENGTH VAMPIRELLA STORY! PLUS **COLOR!**

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# VAMPIRELLA

VAMPI  
#54

SEPT. 1976

**THE BLOOD BALL HAS PREDICTED IT...  
A FRIEND WILL DIE BY VAMPIRELLA'S HAND!  
ADAM? CONRAD VAN HELSING? PENDRAGON?**



**WHO WILL FALL BEFORE HER DEADLY FANGS?**

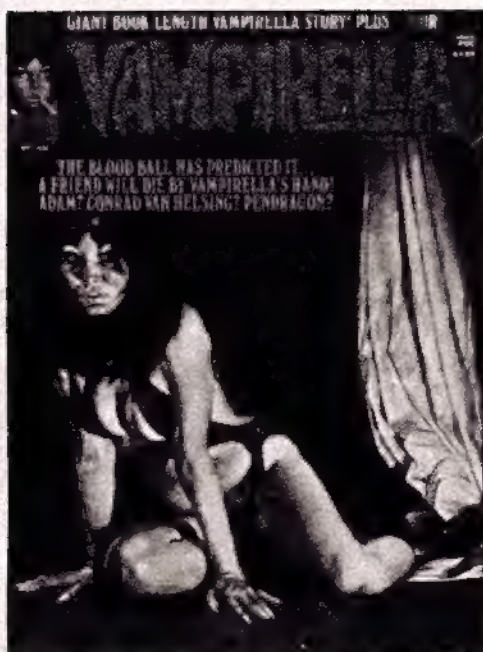
VAMPIRELLA No. 54 SPECIAL COLOR GIANT



I'M VAMPIRELLA!  
COME. ENTER MY  
WORLD!







**OUR COVER**  
VAMPI's blood substitute serum is no longer effective. And she is faced with the threat that she will fulfill an ancient curse... and slay a friend. Beautiful cover by Enrich!

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# VAMPIRELLA®

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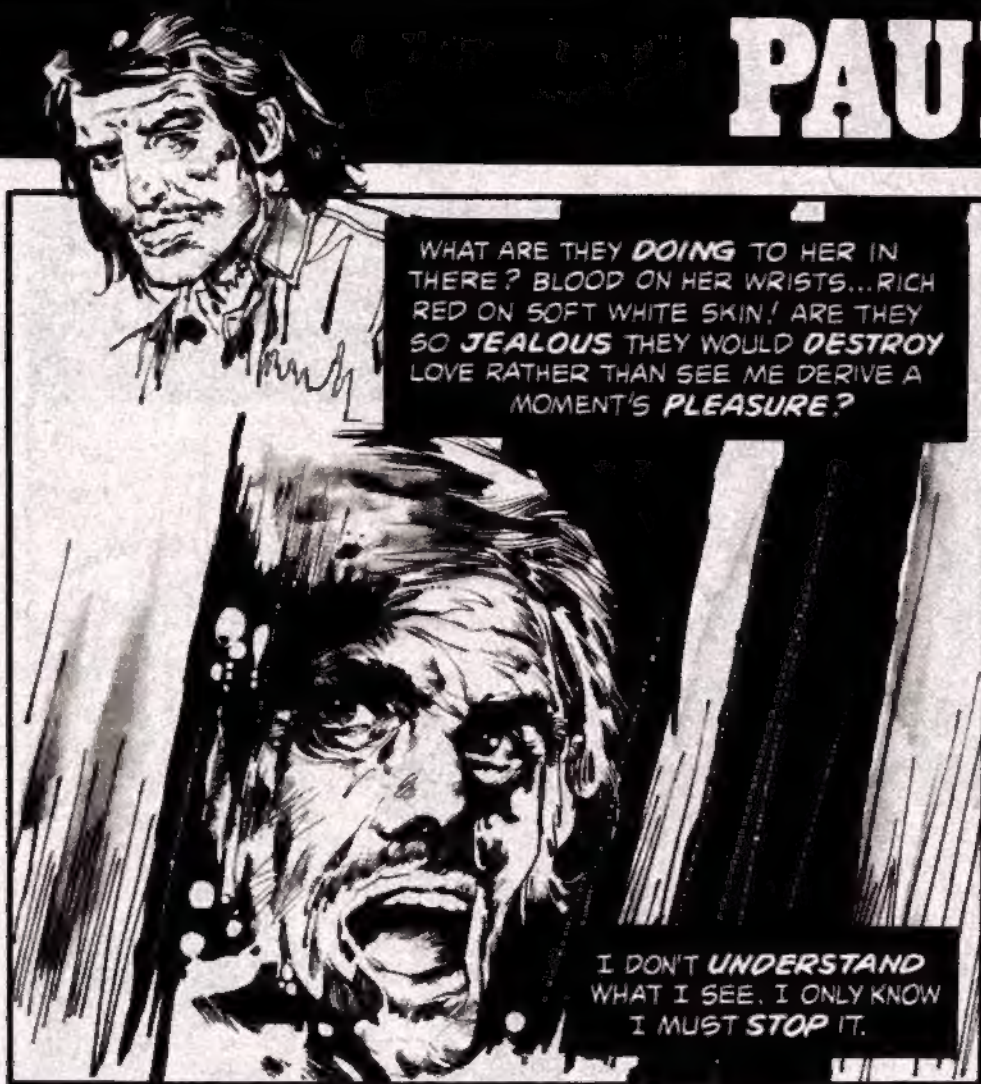
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### BOWSER

Bowser was a pet... a most unusual one. It had tentacles and a ravenous appetite, especially for unsuspecting Avon ladies. But one little boy understood the reason behind Bowser's peculiar behavior... he just wasn't telling!



# PAUL DALTREY





GREENWICH VILLAGE ISN'T WHAT IT  
*USED* TO BE. THERE WAS A TIME,  
NEARLY TWO DECADES AGO, WHEN  
IT BRISTLED WITH WILD, CREATIVE  
*ENERGY* AND *BOHEMIAN DARING*.

NOW, LIKE A STUD GONE LIMP FROM  
OVER-INDULGENCE, IT IS A JADED  
*ECHO* OF THOSE TIMES, STRIVING  
TO MAINTAIN THE ILLUSIONS OF  
*VIRILITY*. THE CLUBS WHERE THE POETS  
WERE HAVE GONE *TOPLESS*, AND CO-  
EXIST SIDE BY SIDE WITH *MCDONALD'S*.

BUT ON THIS MILD SPRING NIGHT, AS THE SOUNDS OF A STREET BAND  
DRIFT OVER FROM WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK, THREE MEN AND...

# VAMPIRELLA

STAND ON THE CORNER OF BLEEKER AND MACDOUGAL ... AND  
A LITTLE BIT OF THE OLD MAGIC IS *REKINDLED*.



"STRAINS AND REFRAINS, ISN'T THAT  
WHAT LOVE IS?  
PUSHING FORWARD, HOLDING BACK  
LISTENING TO THE MUSIC OF OUR  
HEARTS..."

"STRAINS AND REFRAINS, CAN YOU  
FEEL THE RHYTHM?  
THE MELODY'S TIGHT, THE HARMONY'S  
RIGHT  
LET'S LISTEN TO THE LOVE SONG IN OUR HEARTS..."

## The Day the Music Died



# PAUL DALTREY

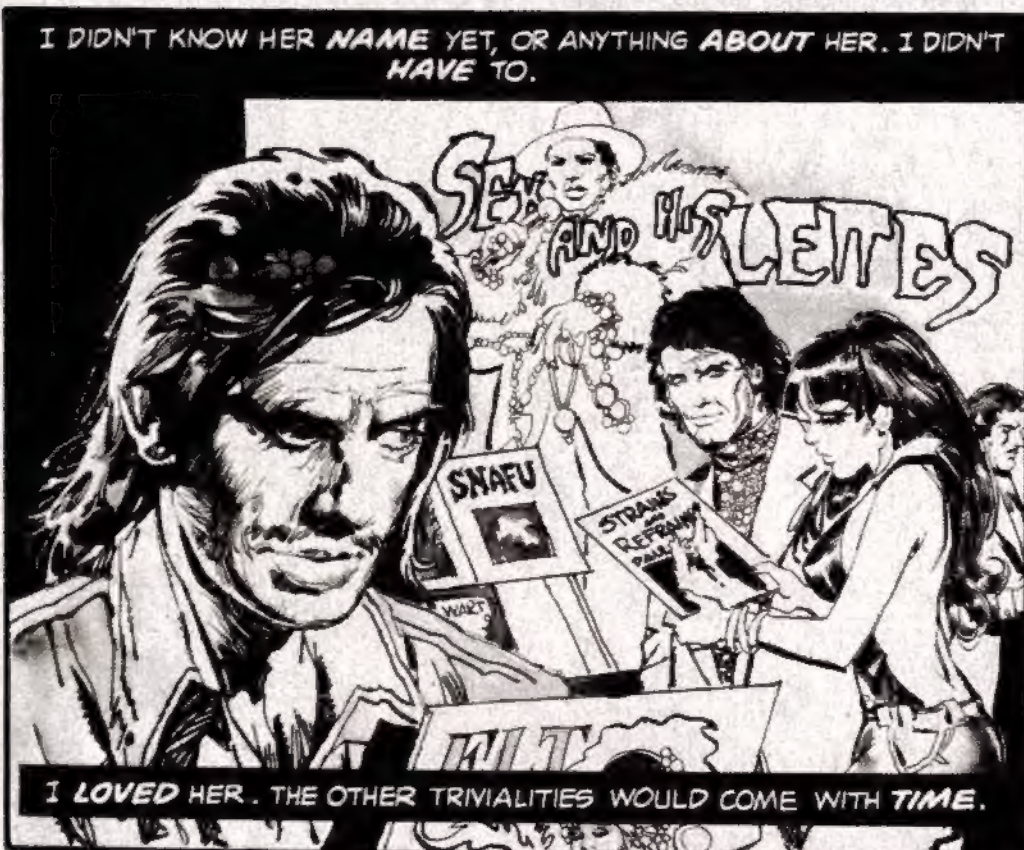


I REALIZE IT SOUNDS **IMPETUOUS**, BUT WHEN I **SAW** HER PAUSE BEFORE THE WINDOW OF THE RECORD SHOP, I KNEW I **WANTED** HER.

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN HER SMILE, WARM AS A CHRISTMAS FIRE-PLACE, OR THE BRIGHT, DANCING EYES THAT FOUND WONDER IN EVERY DETAIL... I DON'T KNOW.



BUT I COULD SEE RIGHT AWAY THAT SHE WAS SOMEONE **RARE**...NO, **UNIQUE**...TOTALLY **UNLIKE** ANY WOMAN I'D EVER MEET AGAIN.



I DIDN'T KNOW HER **NAME** YET, OR ANYTHING **ABOUT** HER. I DIDN'T HAVE TO.

I **LOVED** HER. THE OTHER TRIVIALITIES WOULD COME WITH **TIME**.



"STRAINS AND REFRAINS" ...**GOOD CHOICE!** BUT I READ IN "**ROLLING STONE**" THAT THIS PAUL DALTREY IS A REAL **SPACESHOT**. SO **INTROVERTED** HE WOULDN'T LET THEM PUT HIS PICTURE ON THE **ALBUM COVER!**

HE LIVES HERE IN THE **VILLAGE** SOME-PLACE, BUT NO ONE'S EVER **SEEN** HIM. COMPARED TO DALTREY, ROBINSON CRU-SOE WAS A **SOCIALITE**.



STRANGE... HE MUST BE A VERY **SENSITIVE** YOUNG MAN. HIS LYRICS ARE SO **TOUCHING**, SO **PERSONAL**. I FEEL **CLOSE** TO HIM, EVEN THOUGH WE'LL PROBABLY NEVER **MEET**.



I'M SURE YOU'RE RIGHT, MY DEAR. BUT IF YOU DON'T **HURRY**, WE'LL MISS THE MIDNIGHT SHOWING OF "**NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD**".

FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD ABOUT **THAT** MOVIE, I'M GLAD I ONLY HAVE A **SOUNDTRACK** TO CONTEND WITH. SOME-TIMES **BLINDNESS** HAS **BLESSINGS**.



I FOLLOWED THEM INTO A SMALL **CINEMA** OFF WEAVERLY PLACE AND SAT IN THE SHADOWS **BEHIND** THEM. THE BLIND ONE FELL ASLEEP SHORTLY AFTER THE PICTURE BEGAN. THE OTHER OLD MAN **GIGGLED** AT INOPPORTUNE MOMENTS.



AS FOR THE **WOMAN**, SHE PAID MORE ATTENTION TO THE **DARK-HAIRED MAN** THAN SHE DID TO THE **SCREEN**, BUT I DIDN'T MIND. SHE WOULD **FORGET** HIM SOON ENOUGH.

WHEN THE MOVIE ENDED, THEY TOOK A TAXI TO AN EAST SIDE, MIDTOWN **HOTEL**.



I **WAITED** AWHILE BEFORE ENTERING THE LOBBY.

FORTY DOLLARS LATER, THE NIGHT CLERK INFORMED ME THEY REGISTERED IN **TWO ROOMS** UNDER THE NAME **VAN HELSING**. I THANKED HIM, AND WENT HOME.



SATISFIED THAT I'D ACCOMPLISHED **ENOUGH** FOR ONE NIGHT, I WENT TO BED AND **DREAMED** OF HER.

## DIALOGUES

THE CITY AT **4:00 A.M.** IS LIKE THE AFTERGLOW OF LOVE. ALIVE WITH **MEMORIES**, IT RADIATES A WARM, MELANCHOLY **SILENCE**, LONELY AND YET REASSURING. THE CITY, LIKE A LOVER, IS MERELY WAITING FOR YOU TO RECOVER YOUR **STRENGTH** TO BEGIN AGAIN.



I CAN'T GET THAT **SONG**, "STRAINS AND REFRAINS", OUT OF MY MIND, ADAM. I WONDER IF PAUL DALTREY WAS EVER IN **LOVE**...!

I'M SURE HE WAS. AND IT MUST'VE BEEN SOME-ONE VERY **SPECIAL**... LIKE YOU.



I'D LIKE TO **MEET** DALTREY SOMEDAY. I PICTURE HIM AS A VERY **INTENSE** PERSON... SOMEONE WHO THINKS WITH HIS **SOUL**, NOT HIS **MIND**.

IF YOU MET HIM, YOU'D PROBABLY BE **DIS-APPOINTED**. BE-SIDES, YOU HAVE **ME**.









# ADAM VAN HELSING



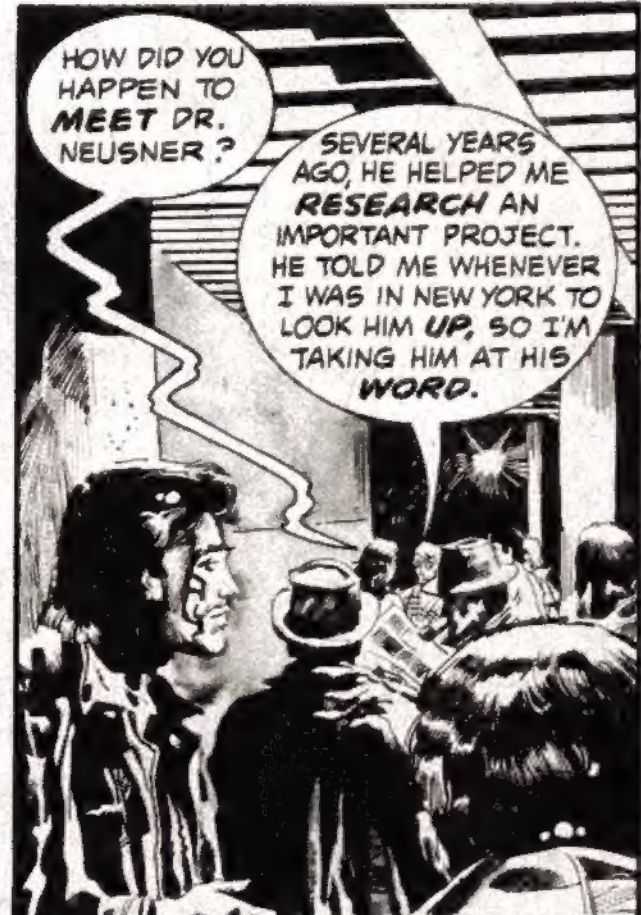
MORNING WAS A DISSONANT SYMPHONY. TAXI HORNS BELCHED OBSCENELY, AND THE SIDEWALK TREMBLED AS A SUBWAY CAR RACED LIKE **CORPUSCLES** THROUGH THE CITY'S **ARTERIES**.

THE CITY HAD ITS **OWN** MUSIC...ITS **OWN STRAINS** AND **REFRAINS**.



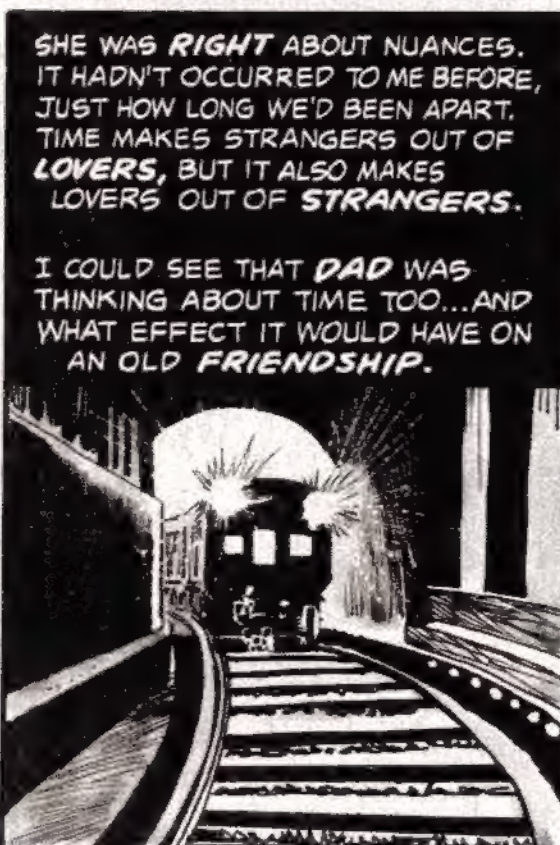
I WAS HARDLY LISTENING TO MY FATHER AS I LOOKED AT VAMPIRELLA. I WAS AMAZED AT HOW DIFFERENT SHE LOOKED IN MORNING SUNLIGHT, THE HIGHLIGHTS AND DESIGNS IT MADE ON HER BODY. IN THIS PERSPECTIVE SHE WAS A WHOLE NEW WOMAN TO BE DISCOVERED AND EXPLORED.

SOUNDS INTERESTING. MIND IF WE TAG ALONG?



HOW DID YOU HAPPEN TO MEET DR. NEUSNER?

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, HE HELPED ME RESEARCH AN IMPORTANT PROJECT. HE TOLD ME WHENEVER I WAS IN NEW YORK TO LOOK HIM UP, SO I'M TAKING HIM AT HIS **WORD**.



SHE WAS **RIGHT** ABOUT NUANCES. IT HADN'T OCCURRED TO ME BEFORE, JUST HOW LONG WE'D BEEN APART. TIME MAKES STRANGERS OUT OF **LOVERS**, BUT IT ALSO MAKES **LOVERS** OUT OF **STRANGERS**.

I COULD SEE THAT **DAD** WAS THINKING ABOUT TIME TOO...AND WHAT EFFECT IT WOULD HAVE ON AN OLD **FRIENDSHIP**.



AS WE NEARED OUR DESTINATION, I MADE MYSELF A SILENT **PROMISE**: I WOULD GET TO **KNOW** VAMPIRELLA IF IT TOOK A **LIFE-TIME**. AND I KINDA HOPED IT **WOULD**.

ACCORDING TO THE RETURN ADDRESS ON THE LAST **LETTER** HE SENT ME, MITCHELL'S OFFICE IS IN **THIS** BUILDING.



I'D HEARD DAD **SPEAK** OF MITCHELL NEUSNER A FEW TIMES, USUALLY IN A TONE AKIN TO **REVERENCE**. PERSONALLY I THOUGHT THE MAN WHO GREETED US AT THE DOOR WAS **FLAKIER** THAN A FEBRUARY **BLIZZARD**.

CONRAD...  
WHAT A PLEASANT  
SURPRISE!



THE OLD TELEPARTY  
STILL **EXISTS** BETWEEN US.  
I WAS THINKING ABOUT YOU  
JUST **YESTERDAY**... AND  
HERE YOU **ARE**!



I STIFLED A **YAWN** AND DECIDED TO KEEP A MENTAL NOTE OF HOW MANY **CLICHES** NEUSNER MANAGED TO INJECT INTO THE CONVERSATION.

I'VE JUST ACQUIRED A NEW  
ITEM IN MY **COLLECTION**...SOME-  
THING I'M SURE YOU WOULD BE  
**INTERESTED** IN, CONRAD, THE  
**TARKINGTON CRYSTAL**...  
BETTER KNOWN AS THE **BLOOD**  
**BALL**.



# THE BLOOD BALL



DO YOU REMEMBER  
THE **LEGEND** BEHIND IT,  
MY FRIEND? THE STORY  
OF THE **TARKINGTON**  
**CURSE**...?

VAGUELY...!



AS I RECALL, TARKINGTON WAS A YOUNG,  
HOT-TEMPERED **NOBLEMAN**, OF THE  
16TH CENTURY. HIS **SADISM** WAS ALMOST AS  
RENOWNED AMONG THE PEASANTS AS HIS BE-  
LIEF IN **SUPERSTITION**. HE WOULD GO TO  
**LUDICROUS** LENGTHS TO PROTECT HIMSELF  
AGAINST **ENCHANTMENT**.

ONE NIGHT, JUST AFTER THE WARS, HE  
STOPPED ALONG A FOREST ROAD TO HAVE  
HIS **FORTUNE** TOLD BY AN OLD **GYPSY**...



WHAT IS IT YOU **SEE** FOR  
ME, OLD WOMAN...WEALTH,  
PROSPERITY?

NO, ONLY  
**HEARTBREAK**. EVIL,  
DEATH, MISERY...**THESE**  
ARE YOUR LOT NOW AND  
**ALWAYS** SHALL  
THEY BE.





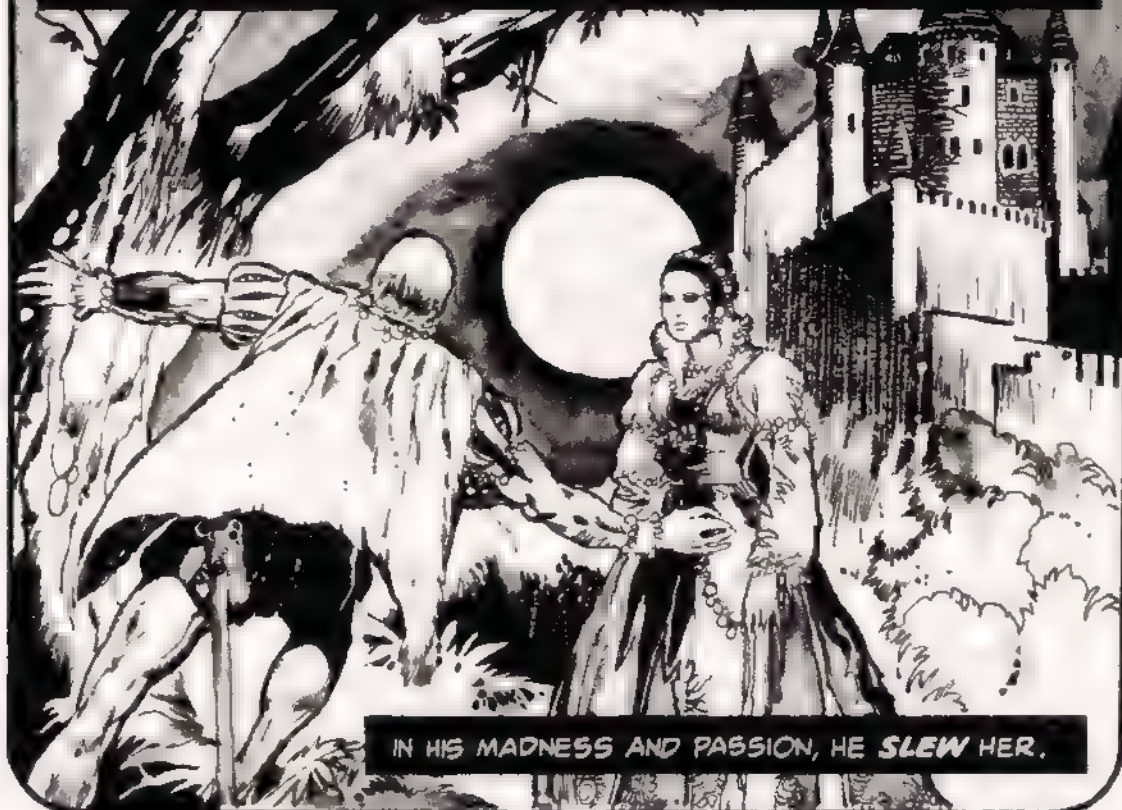


INFLAMED BY HER **INSOLENCE**, THE FIERY YOUNG MAN PLUNGED A **DAGGER** INTO THE OLD WOMAN'S **BOSOM**. YET BEFORE SHE DIED, HER CRACKED, FEEBLE LIPS MUTTERED A **CURSE**...HEARD BY NO ONE BUT **HERSELF** AND WHATEVER DARK GOD SHE **INVOKED**.

THAT HE TOOK AS A **MEMENTO** AND RESOLVED TO LEARN ITS ART, THAT HE MIGHT PROVE THE GYPSY'S PREDICTIONS **WRONG**. BUT SCARCELY DID HE TAKE IT IN HIS HANDS THAN DROPLETS OF **BLOOD** APPEARED ON THE SURFACE, DRIPPING AND STAINING THE CLEAR GLASS.



WHEN FINALLY HE RAN IN THE VICINITY OF THE FAMILY CASTLE, HE SAW A YOUNG WOMAN APPROACH, AND BELIEVED TO HIS SOUL SHE WAS A FIEND COME TO CLAIM HIM. SHE WAS, IN TRUTH, HIS SISTER.



IN HIS MADNESS AND PASSION, HE **SLEW** HER.

FEARING HIS CRIME WOULD BE **DISCOVERED** HE TRIED TO MAKE IT APPEAR THE WORK OF A **HIGHWAYMAN**. HE TOOK THE CRONE'S FEW **POSSESSIONS** AND **BURIED** THEM AT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST."

ALL EXCEPT THE **CRYSTAL BALL**.



SUPERSTITIOUS PHOBIA TOOK **POSSESSION** OF HIM. HE RAN, LIKE A PLUMP FOX IN A DEN OF STARVED HOUNDS. EVERY SHADOW CONCEALED UNIMAGINEABLE **TERROR**...EVERY LIMB WAS A **DEMON'S ARM**, SEEKING TO EXACT A GHASTLY VENGEANCE...!

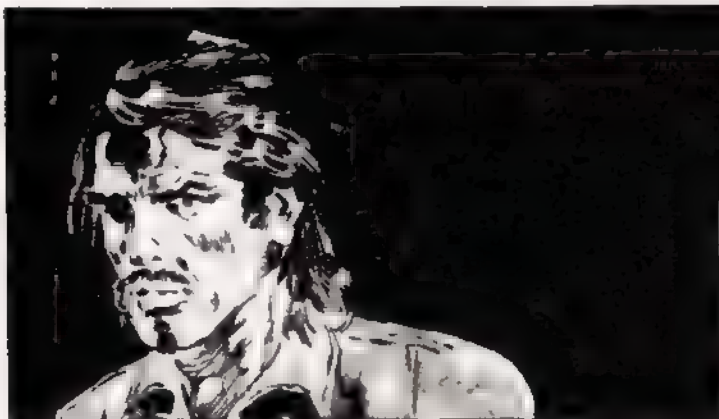


THAT DEED WAS NOT SO EASILY **CONCEALED**. TARKINGTON WAS FINALLY AND JUSTLY **HANGED**.

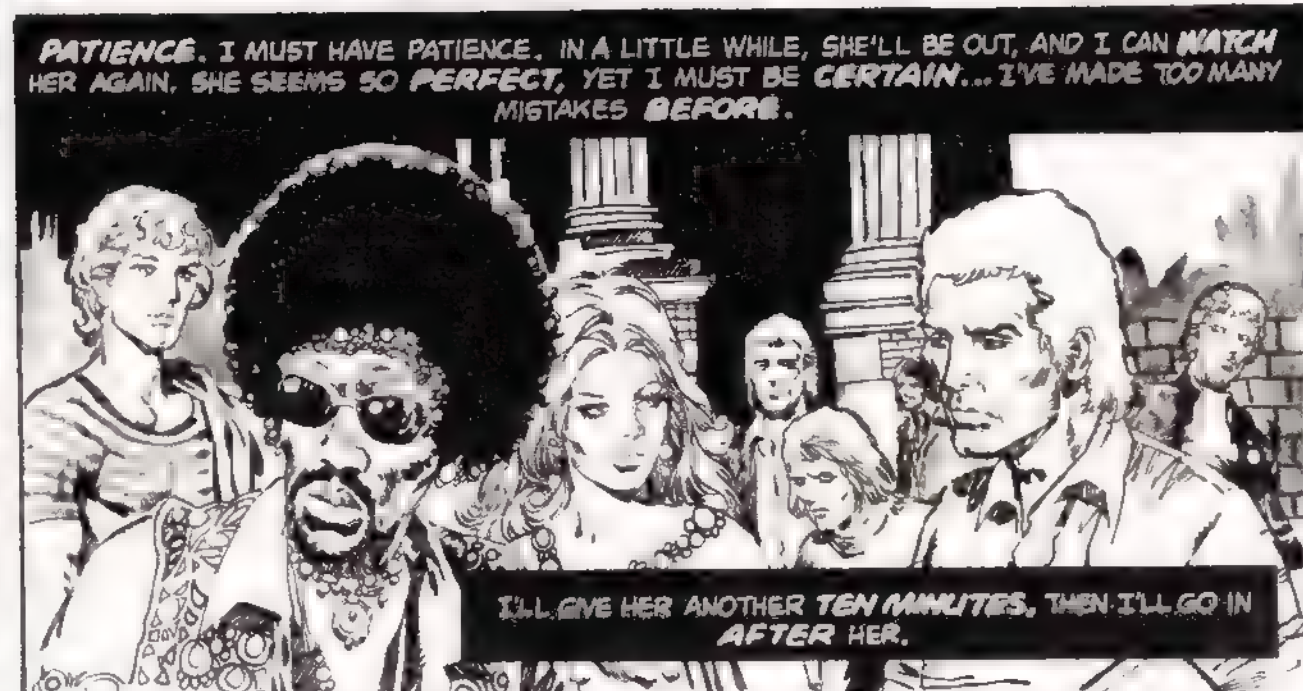
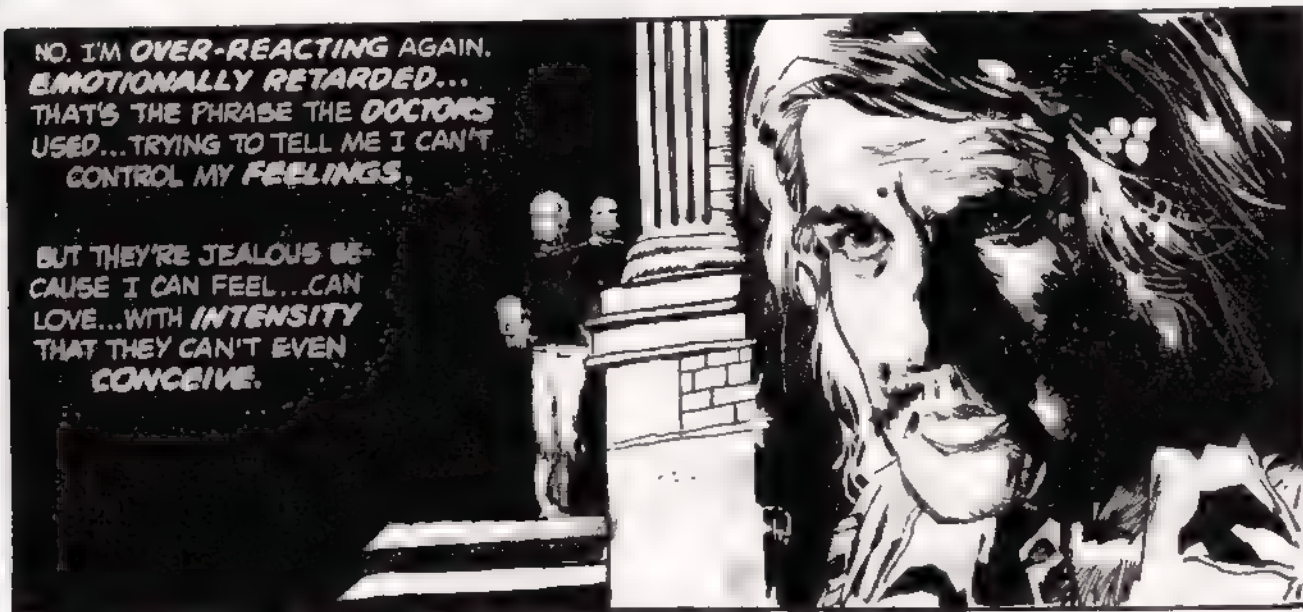
SINCE THAT TIME, THE BALL HAS HAD MANY **OWNERS**. IT IS **RUMORED** THAT THE **INNOCENT** ONES PASS IT ON **UNDISTURBED**. BUT THOSE WHO HAVE SPILLED BLOOD...THOSE WHO HARBOR **DARK SECRETS** LIKE TARKINGTON'S...COME UNDER THE GYPSY'S **CURSE**.







# PAUL DALTREY





# CONRAD VAN HELSING

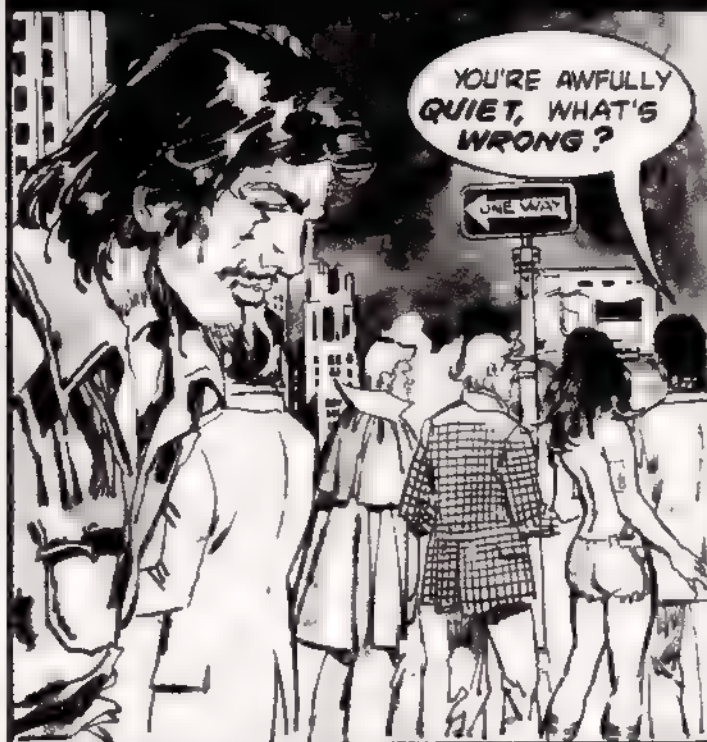


WAS I **RIGHT** IN TURNING ASIDE MY VOW TO **DESTROY** HER? I'D LIKE TO **THINK** SO...

...SO WHY DO MY **INSTINCTS** WARN ME THAT SOMEDAY I'LL **REGRET** THE DECISION?



I BELIEVE SHE TRULY **LOVES** ADAM. BUT I'VE SEEN HER IN THE GRIP OF THAT **INFERNAL THIRST**. I KNOW THE **VIOLENCE** SHE'S **CAPABLE** OF. THOUGH IT HURTS ME TO **SAY** IT, I KNOW THE **BLOOD BALL'S** PROPHECY **COULD** COME TRUE.



NOTHING, ADAM... JUST AN OLD MAN RELIVING SOME **MEMORIES**. AT MY AGE, MEETING AN OLD FRIEND LIKE **MITCHELL** USHERS IN A WHOLE **WAVE** OF **NOSTALGIA**.



IT'S TOO BAD ABOUT THAT **INCIDENT**. IT CAUSED SUCH AN **EMBARRASSED SILENCE**, I'M AFRAID IT CUT SHORT THE **REUNION**.



I SMILED MY BIGGEST "WHAT--ME WORRY?" **GRIN**...

...BUT I DON'T THINK IT FOOLED **ANYBODY**.





# VAMPIRELLA

THERE'S A SUBTLE **CHANGE** IN THE AIR, AND IT **BOTHERS** ME. EVERYONE'S TRYING TO PRETEND NOTHING **HAPPENED** BACK THERE, BUT I CAN SENSE WHAT THEY'RE **THINKING**.

I CAN'T REALLY **BLAME** THEM. I AM THE **OUTSIDER** HERE.



WAIT HERE!  
I'LL GET MY  
**FATHER!**

FUNNY, IT WAS ONLY **WEEKS** AGO I SWORE I'D KILL ONLY THOSE WHO **DESERVED** IT. I SUPPOSE IT WAS NO BIG DEAL...A **CORPSE** BY ANY OTHER NAME...IT JUST HELPED ME COPE WITH THE **GUILT**.

ALL IT TAKES IS A **CRYSTAL BALL**, A **CURSE**, AND A FEW UNSPOKEN THOUGHTS TO REMIND ME OF WHAT I **REALLY** AM...

FUNNY HOW THE LYRICS OF THAT **SONG** KEEP POPPING INTO MIND. IT'S AS THOUGH PAUL DALTREY WERE TAPPING MY PRIVATE **THOUGHTS**, AND SETTING THEM TO **MUSIC**.



A **HUNTRESS**, AND A **THREAT** TO THOSE I CARE ABOUT. **TERRIFIC!**

ADAM...  
SOMETHING'S  
**WRONG!**

WHAT  
IS IT?

THE **SERUM!**  
IT'S NOT  
**WORKING!**



I'VE BEEN **AFRAID** THIS WOULD HAPPEN. THE **SERUM** WORKS LIKE A **DRUG**. IT'S BEEN BUILDING UP IN YOUR SYSTEM FOR SO **LONG** NOW YOU'VE DEVELOPED AN **IMMUNITY** TO IT!

IT'S POSSIBLE I CAN DEVELOP A **STRONGER** **SERUM**, BUT **UNTIL** THAT TIME...!





I LOOK AROUND AT THE SILENT, EXPECTANT  
FACES... **SCHOOLBOYS** LACKING THE COURAGE  
TO ASK THE PRETTIEST GIRL TO **DANCE**.  
THOUGH NO ONE SPEAKS UP, I KNOW WHAT THEY  
ARE WAITING TO **HEAR**.



THEN YOU MUST SEE TO IT  
I'M **CONFINED**, IN A PLACE WHERE  
I CAN DO NO **HARM**. THE BLOOD BALL  
MAY BE NOTHING MORE THAN SUPER-  
STITION, BUT DEEP DOWN, I DON'T  
THINK **ANY** OF US BELIEVE THAT.



MITCHELL NEUSNER MENTIONED  
A **COTTAGE** UPSTATE WHERE HE  
GOES TO WORK ON HIS TEXTS AND  
ARTICLES IN **SECLUSION**. IT MIGHT  
BE JUST RIGHT FOR **OUR** PURPOSES.



# PENDRAGON



IT SEEMED ALMOST  
**LUDICROUS**. SHE  
LOOKED HARMLESS AS  
A BUTTERFLY, STANDING  
THERE, ONE OF **THOU-**  
**SANDS** OF COMMUTERS  
COMPRESSED IN THE PORT  
AUTHORITY TERMINAL. AND HERE WE WERE,  
LEADING HER LIKE A PUPPY INTO A KENNEL,  
ALL BECAUSE OF A BLOODSTAIN ON A CRYSTAL  
BALL.



WE'D HAD TO TAKE NEUSNER INTO OUR **CON-**  
**FIDENCE** OF COURSE, BUT EVEN **WE** WERE  
SURPRISED WHEN HE INSISTED ON MAKING THE  
TRIP **WITH** US.



THE BLOODLUST IS STILL  
IN ITS EARLIEST **STAGES**. IT'LL  
BE SEVERAL **HOURS** BEFORE THE  
NEED BECOMES **CRITICAL**.

I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT BEFORE, BUT I  
SUPPOSE IT **WAS** HER AFFLICTION THAT MADE  
ME FEEL SO **CLOSE** TO VAMPRELLA. THERE  
WERE TIMES I'D'VE SOLD MY **MOTHER** IN-  
TO **WHITE SLAVERY** FOR A FIFTH OF  
**SCOTCH**, SO I UNDERSTAND HER **DESPER-**  
**ATION**.

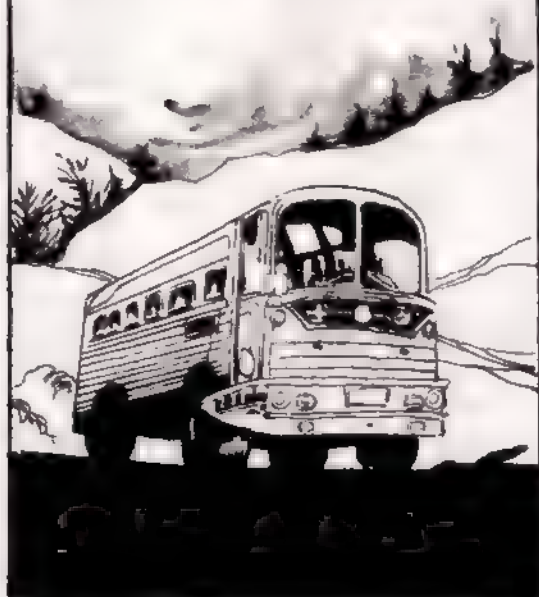




I SUPPOSE I ALSO FEEL **PROTECTIVE** TOWARD HER, NOT IN A PATERNAL SORT OF WAY. WE'VE BEEN LIKE TWO **WAR HEROES**, FIGHTING ENEMY AFTER ENEMY, THEN FINDING OUT WE'RE THE ONLY **SURVIVORS**.



I JUST KNOW THAT IF IT WEREN'T FOR VAMPIRELLA, I'D BE **ONE** OF THOSE LONELY OLD PEOPLE IN THE **NURSING HOMES**. I GUESS THAT MEANS I **OWE** HER SOMETHING.



IT WAS 3 A.M. WHEN WE ARRIVED IN ROSTAING, NEW YORK (POPULATION 436), AND THE TOWN WAS DEADDER THAN A **BARBECUED PIG**. WE HAD TO **WALK** THE TWO MILES TO NEUSNER'S SUBURBAN COTTAGE.



THE LEGEND OF THE TARKINGTON CURSE WAS FRESH IN OUR MINDS AS WE SET ABOUT THE TASK. EVEN SO, I **CRIED** AS THE SHACKLES WERE PUT ABOUT HER WRIST.



BUT I DIDN'T LET HER **SEE** ME.

IT WAS AGREED THAT NEUSNER WOULD TAKE THE FIRST **WATCH**. CONRAD SET OUT IMMEDIATELY TO WORK ON A NEW **SERUM**. ADAM AND I BOTH TRIED TO CATCH SOME **SLEEP**.



NEITHER OF US **SUCCEEDED!**



# MITCHELL NEUSNER



I MUST BE CRAZY. IT'S 4:00 A.M., AND I'M SITTING HERE IN A DAMP **BASEMENT**, LISTENING TO CRICKETS CHIRP OUTSIDE AND RATS SCURRY ACROSS THE STONE FLOOR, STANDING GUARD OVER A WOMAN WHO MIGHT **ESCAPE** AT ANY MOMENT AND SUCK MY BODY DRY.



I HOPE FOR CONRAD'S SAKE, HE **SUCCEEDS** IN DEVELOPING ANOTHER FORMULA. I DON'T KNOW WHAT MAGIC VAMPIRELLA HOLDS OVER THEM, BUT IT DOESN'T TAKE A SWAMI TO KNOW THEY **NEED** HER.

WHATEVER IT IS, SHE FULFILLS **SOMETHING** IN ALL THEIR LIVES.



SHE IS A **STRONG** WOMAN, THIS VAMPIRELLA. I ADMIRE HER **COURAGE**. IF HER WILL IS **EQUAL**, SHE MAY **SURVIVE** ALL THIS.

## VAMPIRELLA

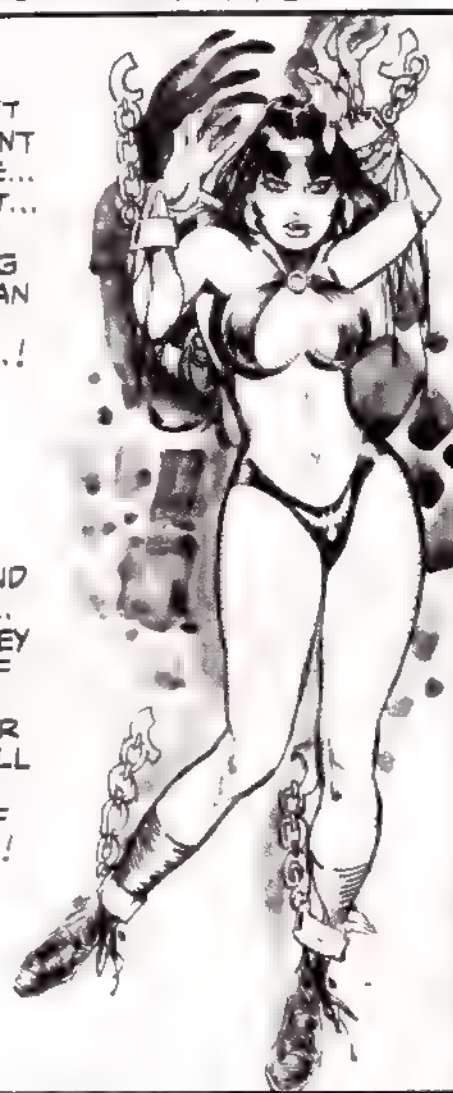


**STRAIN**--A) A VIOLENT EFFORT; A STRETCHING OR EXERTION OF THE MUSCLES OR MIND... B) A SONG, A POEM, A SOUND.

**REFRAIN**--A) TO BRIDLE IN, TO CURB... B) THE BURDEN OF A SONG; A KIND OF MUSICAL REPETITION.

NO, I DON'T REALLY WANT TO ESCAPE... MUST FIGHT... THINK OF SOMETHING OTHER THAN THE PASSION...!

SONG... STRAINS AND REFRAINS... PAUL DALTRY... MAYBE IF I TRY TO REMEMBER LYRICS... WILL TAKE MY MIND OFF BLOOD...!

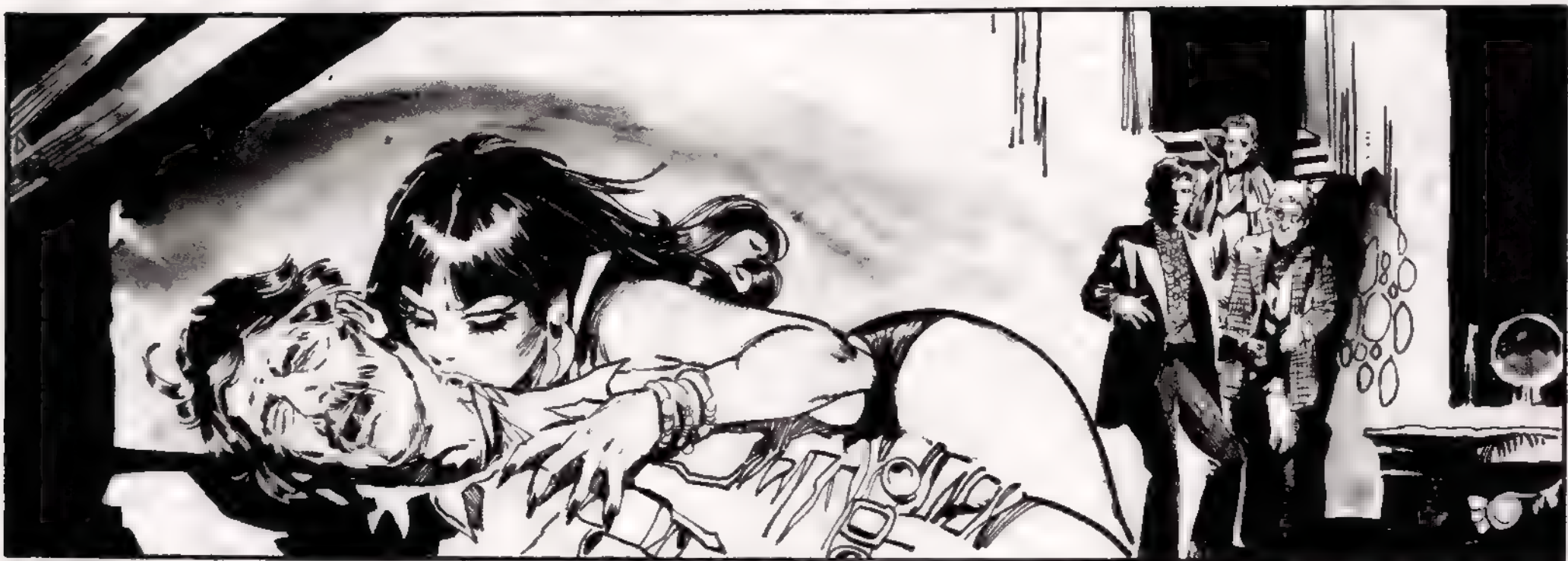
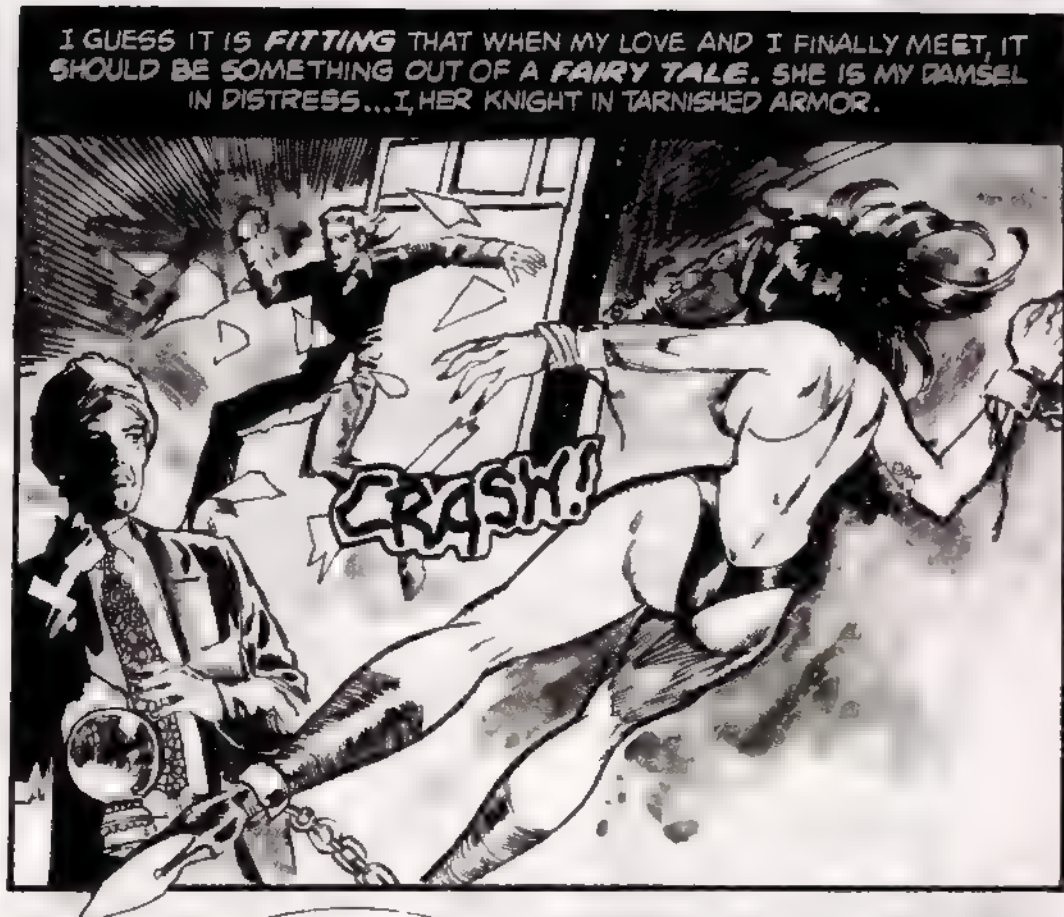
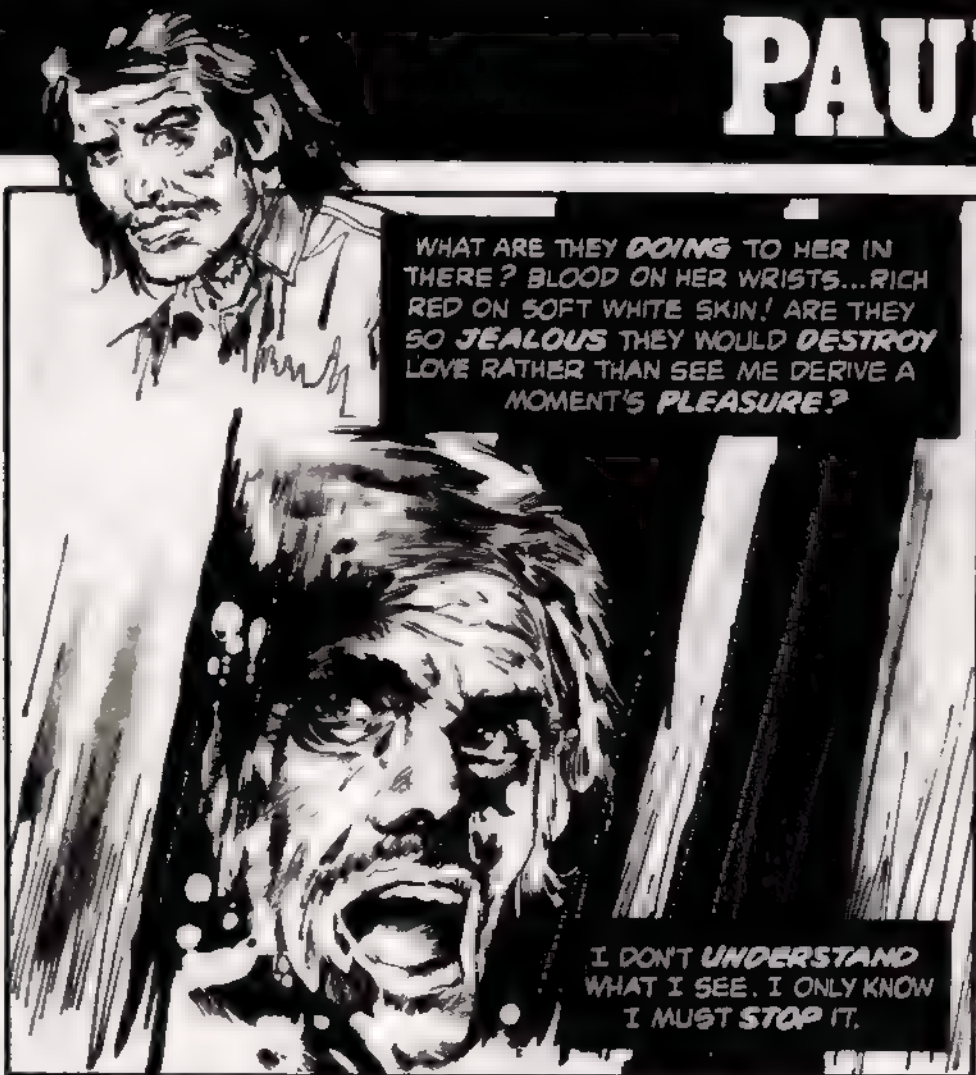


STRAINS... AND REFRAINS... ISN'T... THAT WHAT LOVE IS? ...FORWARD... BACK... LOVE SONG... MELODY... HARMONY... OH GOD, THE **PAIN...!**





# PAUL DALTREY



END



# THE COMIC BOOKS

By Joe Brancatelli

**T**he woman of whom I write is unknown to you, but who she is has no great significance anyway. The dangerous school of literary thought to which she subscribes, however, is of vital interest to you.

When I returned from an assignment in Dallas not long ago, I called the woman of whom I write into my tiny cubicle in order to pass along a possible story idea concerning a complicated, but undeniably important, economic issue.

"How in hell are our readers going to understand what we're talking about," asked the woman of whom I write.

"If you write it up plainly enough," I said, "I'm sure they'll find useful and valuable information in the story."

The woman of whom I write stared blankly, no doubt amazed that I cared, and gathered herself off my rather battered guest chair. "Ninety-eight per cent of our readers still move their lips," the woman of whom I write snapped with a wide grin that did nothing to hide her disdain. "There's not a thing I can write that they'll understand."

Unfortunately for the woman of whom I write, my tiny cubicle is at the right hand of God—the managing editor—and has notoriously poor sound absorption qualities.

Our God overheard the woman of whom I write's intemperate remark.

"I am truly sorry that we aren't THE NEW YORKER magazine or equivalent to it," our God said to the woman of whom I write. "But since you find our readers so terribly distasteful, I trust you won't waste your talents here any longer."

And, our God told the woman of whom I write before returning to his seat with all his dignity, "make sure your body is outta this office by the end of the day."

**M**y little vignette is a tale of rare honor on the part of our God. He far too often allows shoddy work to pass his desk and into the paper for no discernable reason. But one thing he could not abide was a reporter or writer who hates the people for whom they write.

All too frequently, however, comic-book editors allow their writers to hate you. It stands to reason that no one can write quality material when he hates his audience.

**T**here are many reasons why today's comic books are bad, of course, but the poor quality of the work is easily the most distressing and disappointing. I have lost count of the times I have heard comic-book writers complain about the lack of intelligence you, the reader, are

saddled with. Comic-book writers despair when you do not buy their masterpieces, not realizing, of course, that they have not written a masterpiece.

**I**n lieu of writing for you, most of today's comic-book writers write for their friends and enemies. Worst of all, they write for their peers—who feel similarly that the rank-and-file comic readers are cretins.

I can never forget the classic statement uttered one evening by a comic-book reader turned comic-book writer. "Thank god some of the guys in the office realize I'm doing top-notch stuff," he told me without aplomb. "The damn kids out there certainly have no idea what I'm talking about."

I couldn't bring myself to tell him that the kids had no idea what he was talking about because the stuff was unreadable.

**A**nother thing that often bothers these comic-book writers is your age. Since more of their stuff reeks of amateurism unseen in this country since the demise of the 8-pagers of the twenties and thirties, most of these comic-book writers contend their comics are written for children. When confronted by criticism from a 14- or 15-year-old comic reader, they assault his intelligence by complaining that any normal teenager should be out reading *Time* and *Newsweek* or *Playboy*.

Which is strange, since almost to a man these same comic-book writers read comic books well into their twenties. They only stopped reading comic books because they became comic-book professionals and it is well known that no comic-book professional *reads* comic books.

**T**his is not to say that you, the reader, are brilliant. I sometimes wince at the books you praise, despair when you really do miss the significance of the increasingly rare comic-book masterpiece and am frustrated that you remain so passively indulgent of the pabulum you buy from the writers who hate you.

On balance, however, you, the reader, are probably more intelligent than the run-of-the-mill editors and writers producing today's comic books. Mark Evanier, one comic-book writer cognizant that his readers are, by and large, a sharp lot, recently exhibited the smarts of the comic-book rank-and-file. Writing in his magazine FEETLEBAUM, a small publication distributed through the amateur press alliance CAPA ALPHA, Evanier noted that most comic-book innovations of the last few years have been formu-

lated from suggestions first made by comic-book readers.

As Evanier also pointed out, even though comic-book professionals such as Roy Thomas, Julius Schwartz and Bob Kanigher went to great lengths to criticize the suggestions when first advanced, the major companies were eventually forced to adopt the readers' thoughts as sound economic judgment.

**A**mong the innovations the astute Evanier mentioned as fan-generated were: the suggestion that two comic-book companies collaborate on a book containing their most popular characters (National and Marvel recently published SUPERMAN VS. SPIDER-MAN); the feasibility of reprinting comic-book stories from the 1940s (both National and Marvel now do it, despite repeated claims that "crude" art made it impossible); comic-book adaption of CONAN novels (Conan is now one of Marvel's few consistently strong-selling characters); revival of pulp characters like The Shadow and Doc Savage; color in Warren magazines; adaptations of popular movies like 2001 and PLANET OF THE APES; revival of the original CAPT. MARVEL (National now manages to squeeze millions of dollars in licensing from that once-lunatic suggestion); reprints of THE SPIRIT by Will Eisner in commercial form; and several others.

Evanier, however, missed the most obvious manifestation of readership intelligence. Tired of being fed issue after issue of inferior work, the supposedly stupid comic-book rank-and-file did the smartest, most effective thing they could have done: they stopped reading comic books.

**I**n the mid-1960s, when writers like Gardner Fox and artists like Steve Ditko helped maintain a certain level of comic-book quality, sales were fantastically good. Several times, with the aid of television programs, books like BATMAN and ARCHIE pushed passed the million-sales-per-issue mark. Even poorer selling books consistently sold well over 300,000 copies per issue.

In today's market, with comic books run by increasingly cantankerous and decreasingly talented writers, sales have plummeted. A book which sells as many as 200,000 copies per issue is rare.

As a matter of fact, it proves what I was about to tell the woman of whom I write before she was so justifiably dismissed.

"Y'know," I was about to say with my luxuriant Brooklyn accent, "readers aren't ever as dumb as you think." ●



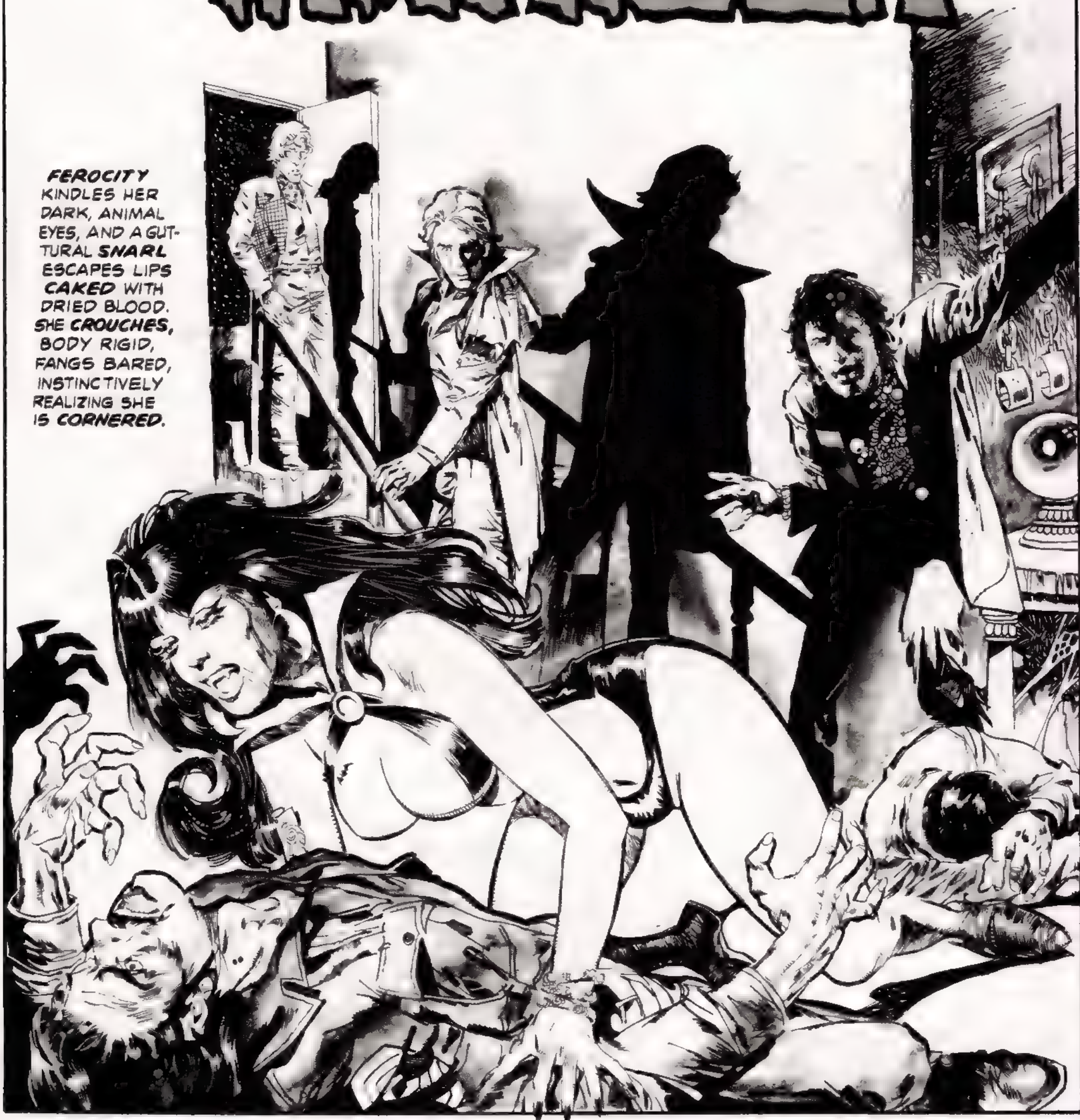
ROSTAING, NEW YORK, IS A SMALL, SIMPLE TOWN, INHABITED BY SMALL AND SIMPLE PEOPLE. HERE, THE SILENT MAJORITY UPHOLD THEIR PRECIOUS SILENCE; THE POLICE CHIEF MOONLIGHTS, AS A GREASE MONKEY AND GENERAL STORE PROPRIETOR; AND CHILDREN LEARN TO CHEER FOR THE JETS, LONG BEFORE THEY'VE OUTGROWN THEIR KIMBEES.

IN OTHER WORDS, ROSTAING IS *CIVILIZED*.

TONIGHT, THE VENEER OF CIVILIZATION HAS BEEN **SCRATCHED**, EXPOSING THE RAW, PRIMITIVE **JUNGLE** BENEATH...WHERE STRANGE, SAVAGE BEASTS STALK THEIR OWN PECULIAR **PREY**, AND THE UNDISPUTED **LEADER OF THE PACK** IS A **WOMAN**. HER NAME:

# VAMPIRELLA

**FEROCITY**  
KINDLES HER  
DARK, ANIMAL  
EYES, AND A GUT-  
TURAL **SNARL**  
ESCAPES LIPS  
CAKED WITH  
DRIED BLOOD.  
SHE **CROUCHES**,  
BODY RIGID,  
FANGS BARED,  
INSTINCTIVELY  
REALIZING SHE  
IS **CORNERED**.





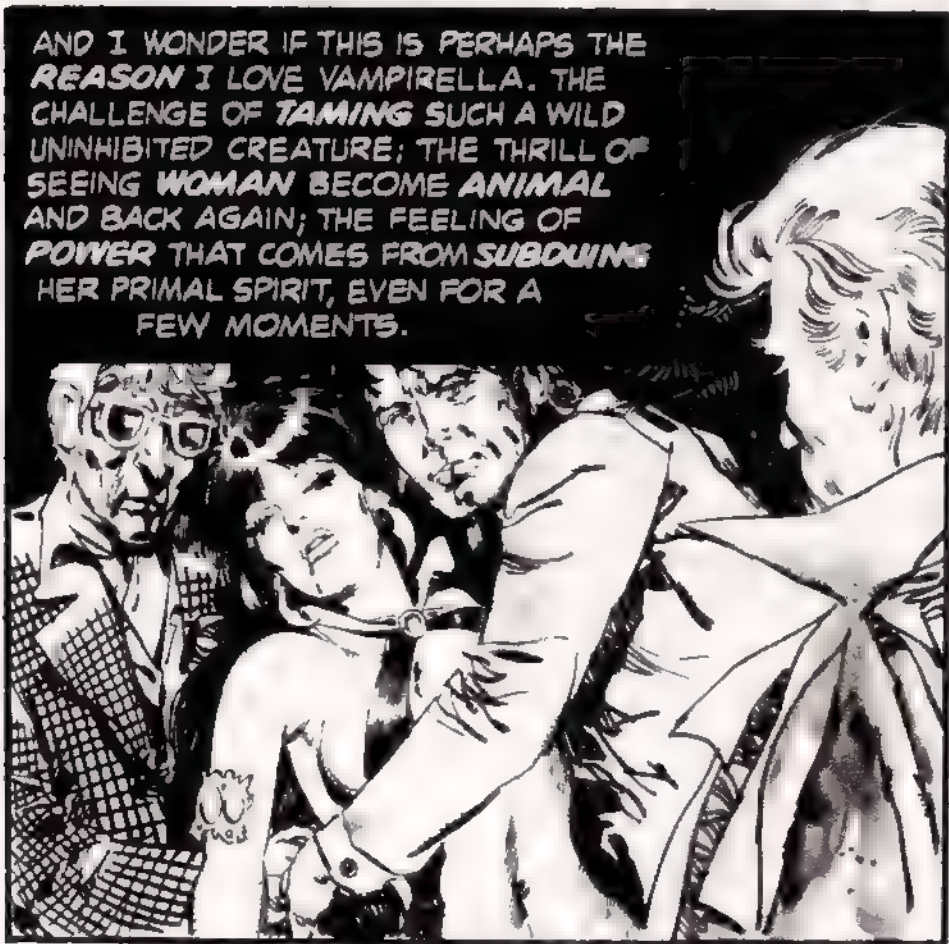
# ADAM VAN HELSEING



LOVE ISN'T BLIND, IT'S JUST **STUPID**. IT HAS NO MORE COMMON SENSE THAN A **TURNIP**. I STAND HERE, MY LIFE AND THOSE OF MY FATHER AND FRIENDS IN **JEOPARDY**, STARING AT THE LITHE, GRACEFUL FORM OF THIS **WOMAN/PREDATOR** AND THINK, "MY GOD, HOW **BEAUTIFUL** SHE LOOKS!"



AND I WONDER IF THIS IS PERHAPS THE **REASON** I LOVE VAMPIRELLA. THE CHALLENGE OF **TAMING** SUCH A WILD UNINHIBITED CREATURE; THE THRILL OF SEEING **WOMAN** BECOME **ANIMAL** AND BACK AGAIN; THE FEELING OF **POWER** THAT COMES FROM **SUBDUING** HER PRIMAL SPIRIT, EVEN FOR A FEW MOMENTS.

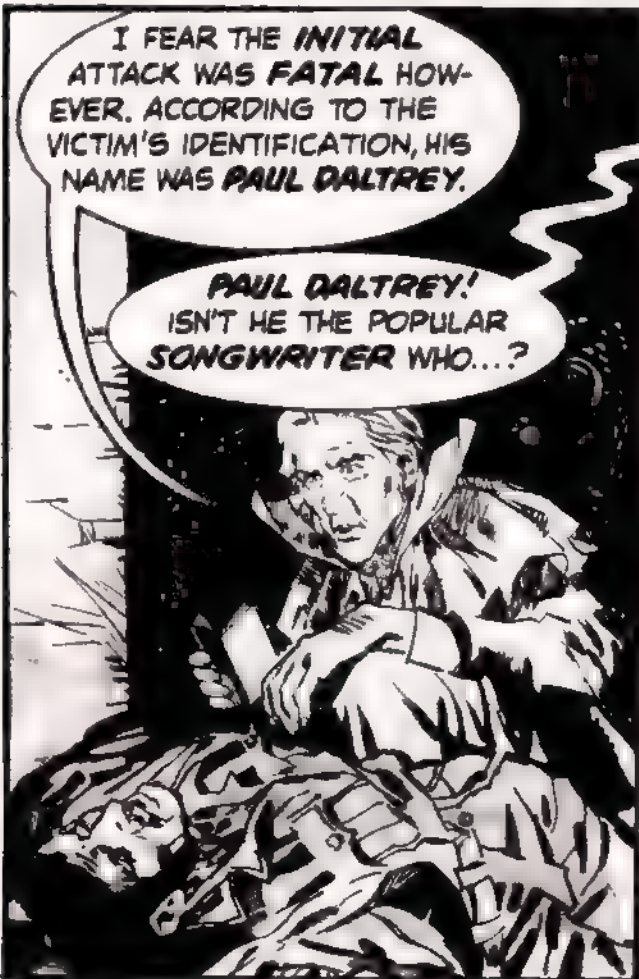


WE WERE **FORTUNATE**... SHE HAS BEEN THREE DAYS WITHOUT **BLOOD** AND THE LITTLE BIT SHE TOOK FROM THAT POOR FELLOW, BEFORE WE **INTER-RUPTED** HER, WAS NOT **ENOUGH**. SHE WAS TOO **WEAK** TO ATTACK AGAIN.



I FEAR THE **INITIAL** ATTACK WAS **FATAL** HOWEVER. ACCORDING TO THE VICTIM'S IDENTIFICATION, HIS NAME WAS **PAUL DALTREY**.

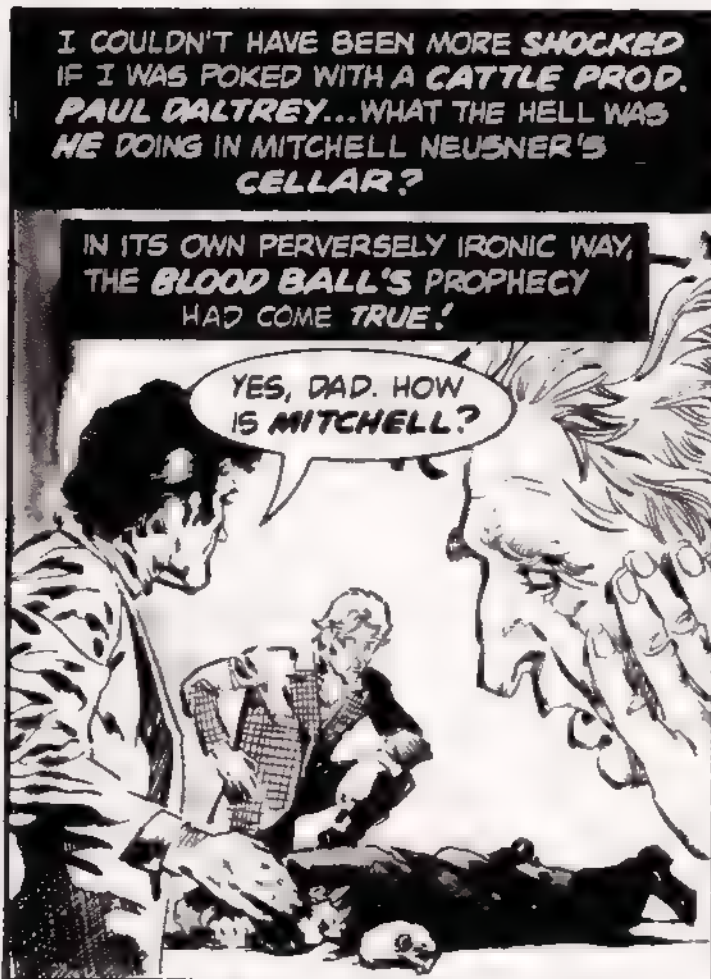
**PAUL DALTREY!** ISN'T HE THE POPULAR **SONGWRITER** WHO...?



I COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE **SHOCKED** IF I WAS POKED WITH A **CATTLE PROD**. **PAUL DALTREY**...WHAT THE HELL WAS HE DOING IN MITCHELL NEUSNER'S **CELLAR**?

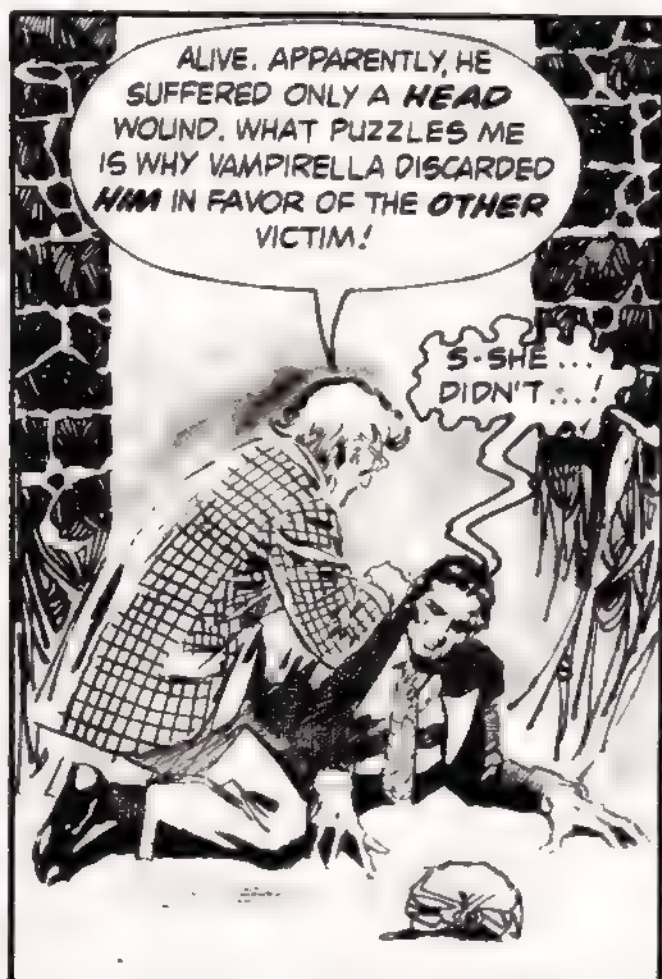
IN ITS OWN PERVERSELY IRONIC WAY, THE **BLOOD BALL'S** PROPHECY HAD COME **TRUE**!

YES, DAD. HOW IS **MITCHELL**?

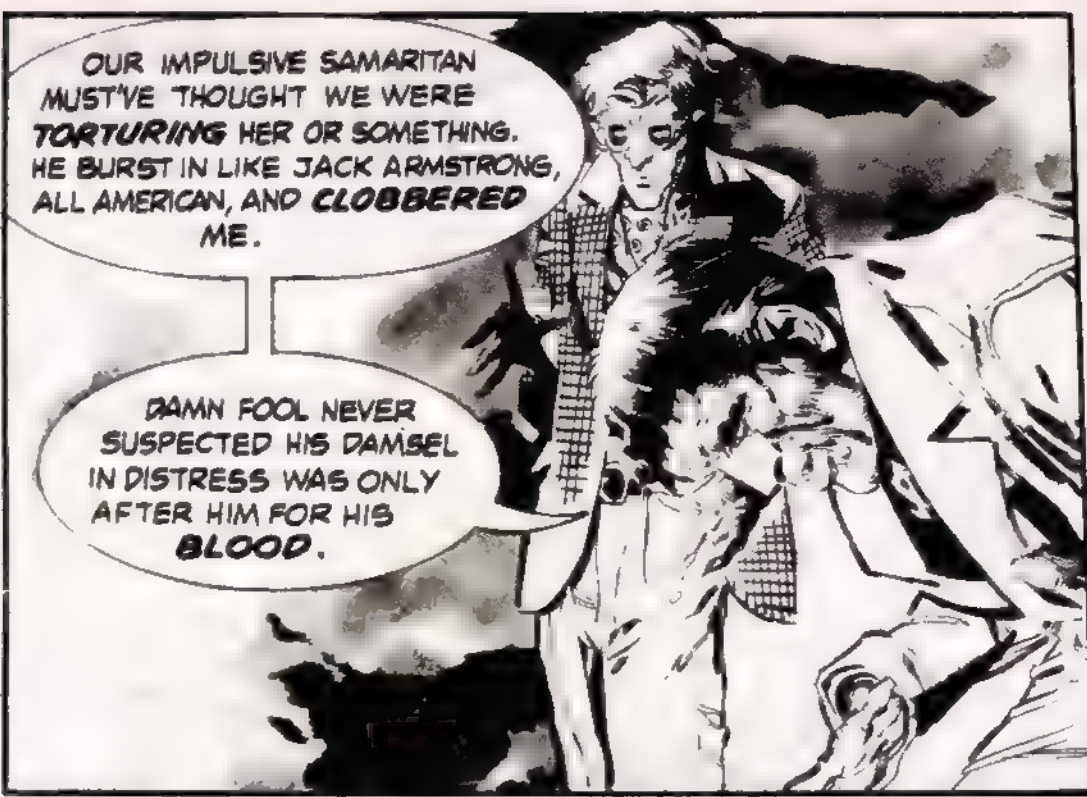


ALIVE. APPARENTLY, HE SUFFERED ONLY A **HEAD** WOUND. WHAT PUZZLES ME IS WHY VAMPIRELLA DISCARDED **HIM** IN FAVOR OF THE **OTHER** VICTIM!

S-SHE... DIDN'T...









MY FATHER SAYS NOTHING, BUT IN HIS HESITATION I READ THE UNSPOKEN THOUGHT. MAYBE IT WOULD BE **BETTER** TO LET HER DIE. THE WORLD HAS SENSELESSLY, PREMATURELY LOST A MAN OF TALENT, PERHAPS, **GENIUS**, TONIGHT.



IT COULD JUST AS EASILY HAVE BEEN ONE OF **US**.

BUT I HAVE KNOWN VAMPIRELLA IN A WAY MY FATHER WILL NEVER **UNDERSTAND**. THE FIRE OF HER **KISSES**, MORE TORRID THAN THE NETHERMOST **HELL**, MORE PASSIONATE THAN A **RIOT**.



THE SAME ANIMAL ESSENCE THAT MAKES HER SO **DEADLY** ALSO MAKES HER SO **EROTIC**.

I WILL NEVER AGAIN FIND **MORE** OF A WOMAN...NOR CAN I EVER SETTLE FOR **LESS**.

THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IS DISPOSING OF THE **BODY**. MY COLLECTION OF **OCCULT ARTIFACTS** HAS ALREADY CONVINCED THE LOCAL POLICE CHIEF THAT I'M A PRACTICING **FRUITCAKE**



I DON'T CARE TO EXPLAIN A **CORPSE** IN MY BASEMENT AS WELL.

IT'S BETTER THAT ADAM STAYS **BEHIND**, IN CASE THERE ARE **OTHER** UNEXPECTED VISITORS.

I **BELONG** HERE, AT VAMPIRELLA'S SIDE, ANYWAY.



ADAM, I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I **THOUGHT** A MOMENT AGO. I'M STILL NOT SURE THAT WHAT I'M DOING IS THE **RIGHT** THING...

...BUT I GUESS IF I KNEW FULL CONSEQUENCES OF EVERY DECISION **BEFORE** I MADE IT, I'D NEVER ACCOMPLISH **ANYTHING**.



BLOOD...NEED...  
BLOOD... PLEASE, ADAM...

IF ALL WENT WELL, THEY WOULD CONSIGN THE BODY OF PAUL DALTREY TO ITS ETERNAL REST IN THE **SWAMPLANDS** OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE. AS FOR ME, I HAD TO CONTEND WITH A WOUNDED, HALF-LIVING **HUNTRESS** IN CHAINS.



I ALWAYS THOUGHT I HAD THE CONSTITUTION OF A **BATTLESHIP**, BUT SEEING THIS MAGNIFICENT BEAST-WOMAN REDUCED TO WHIMPERING AND BEGGING, A MISBEGOTTEN **TRAVESTY** AGAINST NATURE, I WAS MORE LIKE A **LEAKY ROWBOAT**. I JUST COULDN'T **HANDLE** IT.



MY FATHER MIGHT NEVER **FORGIVE** ME, BUT I DID WHAT I **HAD** TO.

LIKE I SAID...LOVE IS **STUPID**. IT HAS NO MORE COMMON SENSE THAN A **TURNIP**.





THE WORLD MIGHT HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF IF I'D BEEN BORN A **VEGETABLE**.



ADAM...I...I DON'T KNOW HOW TO **THANK YOU**...!

HER REACTION WAS **INSTANTANEOUS**. SHE REGAINED HER **STRENGTH**, REAFFIRMED HER **SUPREMACY**, SWIFTER THAN A WHISPER CAN FADE.



I DID IT AS MUCH FOR **MYSELF** AS FOR YOU. SEEING YOU THAT WAY, I FELT I'D **FAILED** YOU...I JUST COULDN'T LIVE WITH THAT FAILURE ANY LONGER.



THAT PROBABLY MAKES ME A **FOOL**, BUT...!

YOU'RE RIGHT, ADAM...IT **DOES**!

WHAT--?



THE **CELERITY** WAS WHAT TOOK ME BY **SURPRISE**. WHAT SCARED ME WASN'T SO MUCH THE BARED FANGS, OR EVEN THE LOOK OF ABSOLUTE HATRED IN HER CARNIVOROUS EYES.

IT WAS THE FACT THAT, DESPITE MY EGOTISTICAL **DELUSIONS** TO THE CONTRARY, I COULD **NEVER, EVER** CONTROL HER.



I'D MADE MYSELF **THINK** I WAS BRAVE, BY BELIEVING THAT MY LIFE HAD BEEN **ENDANGERED**; BUT UNTIL NOW, I'D NEVER SERIOUSLY **BELIEVED** THAT VAMPIRELLA COULD BRING HERSELF TO **HURT** ME.



I GUESS I **DESERVED** THIS.

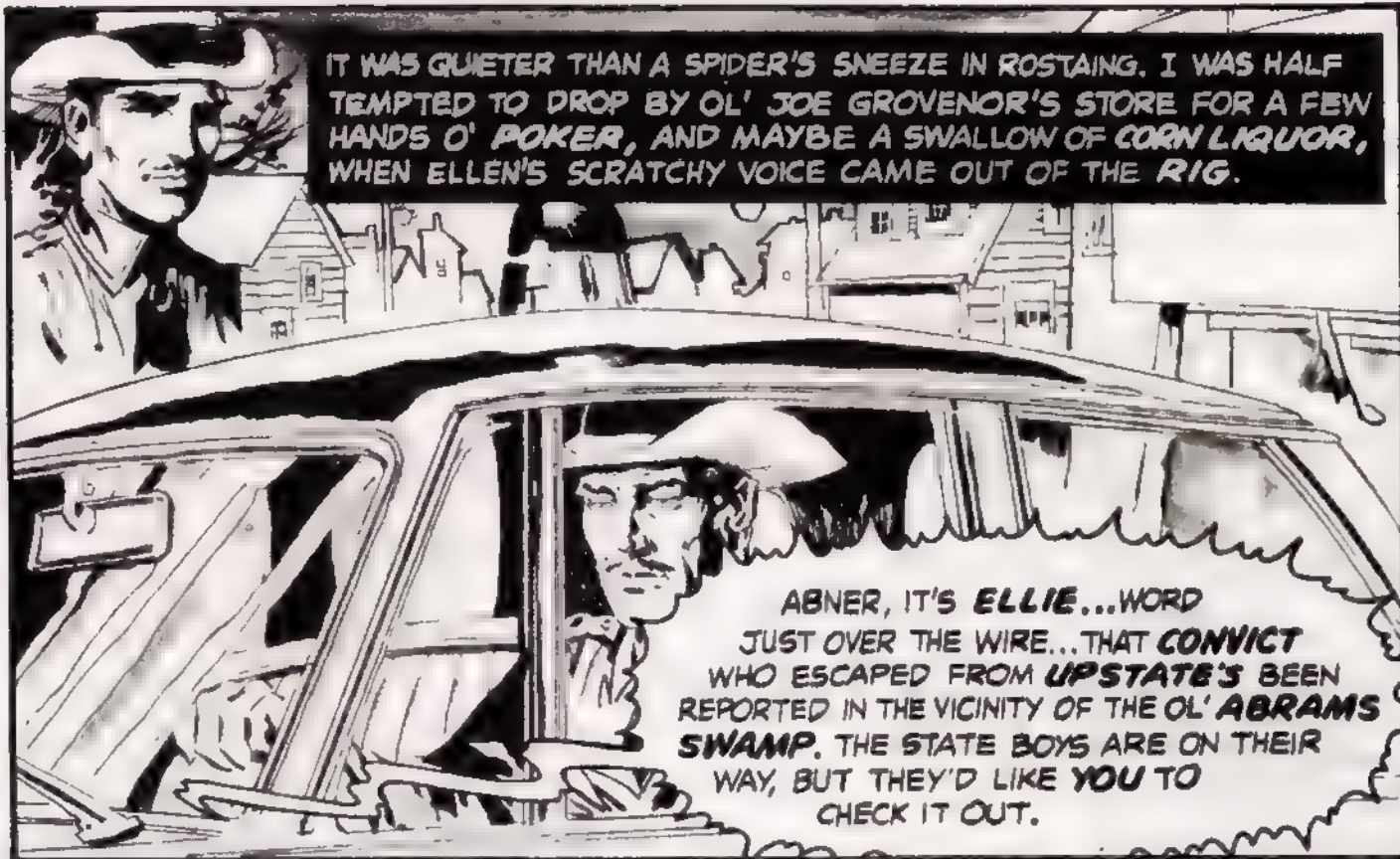
THE SHATTERING OF THE **BLOOD BALL** WAS LIKE A **DEATH KNELL**. SPLINTERS OF GLASS **SPRAYED** THE ROOM LIKE A CRYSTAL SAND-STORM, AND A STRANGE, CERULEAN **MIST** ROSE FROM THE FRACTURED SPHERE.



WE BOTH **FROZE**, IMMEDIATELY SENSING ANOTHER **PRESENCE** IN THE ROOM.

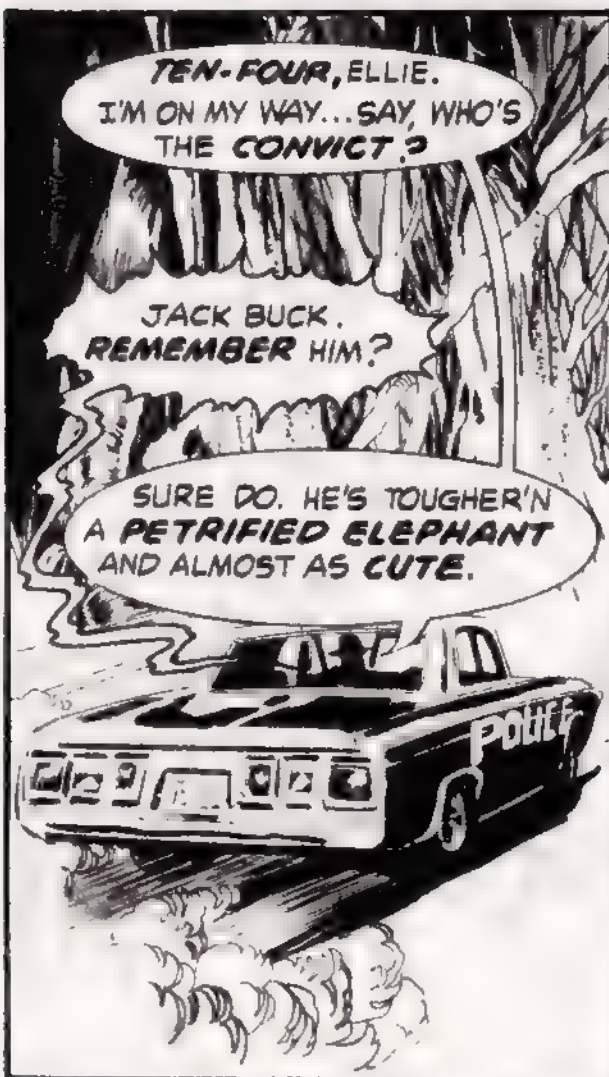


# ABNER LOWERY



IT WAS QUIETER THAN A SPIDER'S SNEEZE IN ROSTAING. I WAS HALF TEMPTED TO DROP BY OL' JOE GROVENOR'S STORE FOR A FEW HANDS O' POKER, AND MAYBE A SWALLOW OF CORN LIQUOR, WHEN ELLEN'S SCRATCHY VOICE CAME OUT OF THE RIG.

ABNER, IT'S **ELLIE**...WORD JUST OVER THE WIRE...THAT **CONVICT** WHO ESCAPED FROM **UPSTATE'S** BEEN REPORTED IN THE VICINITY OF THE OL' **ABRAMS SWAMP**. THE STATE BOYS ARE ON THEIR WAY, BUT THEY'D LIKE **YOU** TO CHECK IT OUT.



TEN-FOUR, ELLIE. I'M ON MY WAY...SAY, WHO'S THE **CONVICT**?

JACK BUCK. REMEMBER HIM?

SURE DO. HE'S TOUGHER'N A **PETRIFIED ELEPHANT** AND ALMOST AS **CUTE**.

THE SWAMPLANDS AIN'T NEVER BEEN ONE OF MY FAVORITE **PLACES**. THEY SMELLED WORSE THAN A SKUNK'S ARMPIT, AND HAD MORE MOSQUITOES THAN FRANK PURDUE'S GOT **CHICKENS**.



THE NOTION OF HUNTIN' **JACK BUCK** DIDN'T SIT TOO WELL WITH ME EITHER.

NEVER KNEW A GODDAMN **SWAMP** COULD MAKE SO MUCH **NOISE**. CRICKETS, OWLS, LEAVES RUSTLIN' IN THE WIND, BUBBLING SWAMP MUCK... AND A FEW THINGS I AIN'T QUITE **FIGURED OUT** YET.

BUT **ONE** OF THEM SOUNDS A HELL OF A LOT LIKE **FOOTSTEPS**.



YEAH, THEM WAS **FOOTSTEPS** ALL RIGHT. I DON'T KNOW THE REASON FOR THIS MIDNIGHT **CARAVAN**, BUT IT'S **BOUND** TO BE **ILLEGAL**. THE GUY ON TOP LOOKS STONE **DEAD**, AND THE OTHER THREE AIN'T EXACTLY **LICENSED MORTICIANS**.

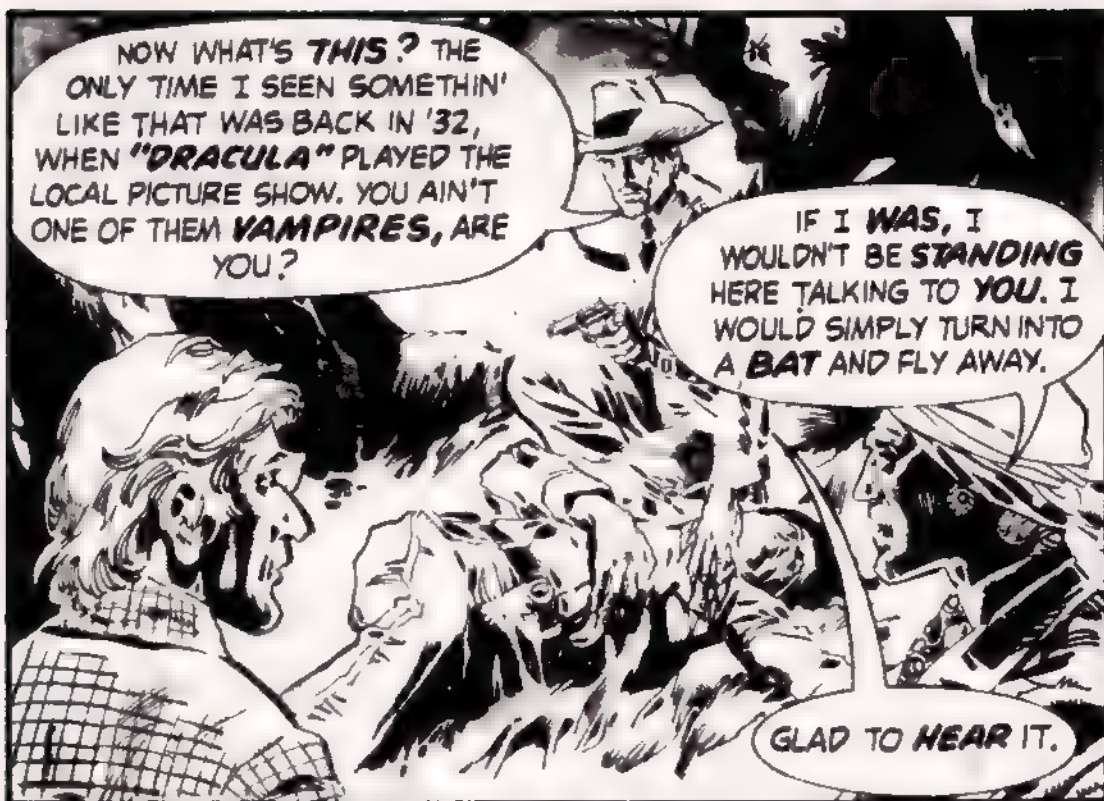


STOP WHERE **YOU ARE**, FELLAS, SO'S I CAN GET A **LOOK** AT YOU! HELL, YOU'RE THAT **FRUITCUP** THAT COLLECTS THEM **DEVIL-TOYS**, AIN'T YOU?

ALWAYS **KNEW** YOU'D GIVE ME TROUBLE SOMEDAY.



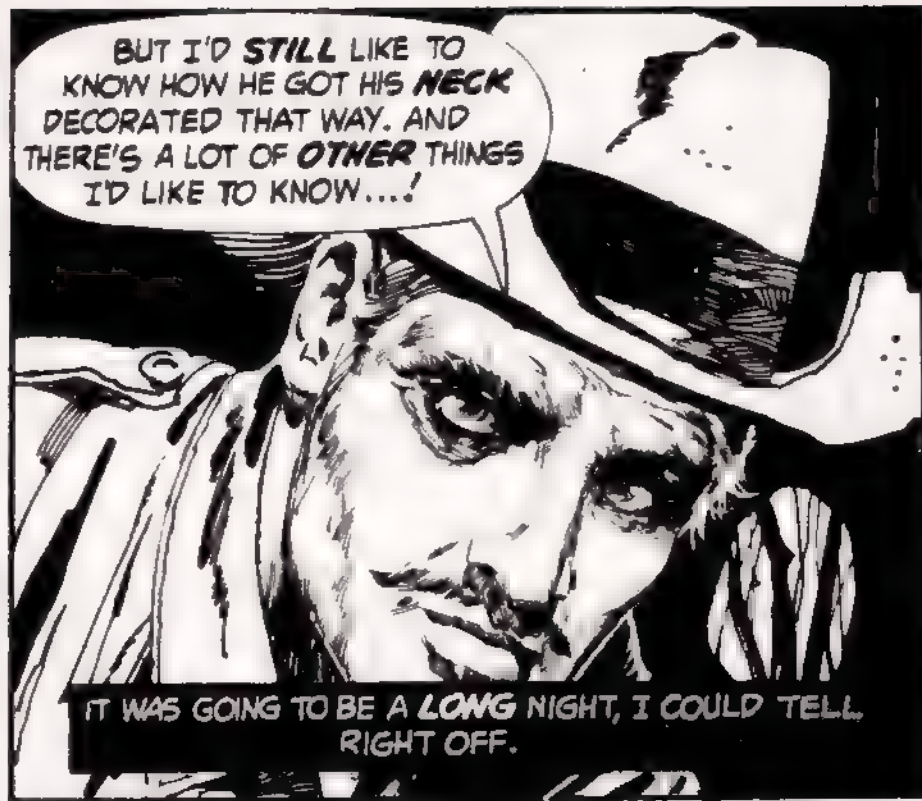




NOW WHAT'S **THIS**? THE ONLY TIME I SEEN SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT WAS BACK IN '32, WHEN "**DRACULA**" PLAYED THE LOCAL PICTURE SHOW. YOU AIN'T ONE OF THEM **VAMPIRES**, ARE YOU?

IF I **WAS**, I WOULDN'T BE **STANDING** HERE TALKING TO **YOU**. I WOULD SIMPLY TURN INTO A **BAT** AND FLY AWAY.

GLAD TO HEAR IT.



BUT I'D **STILL** LIKE TO KNOW HOW HE GOT HIS **NECK** DECORATED THAT WAY. AND THERE'S A LOT OF **OTHER** THINGS I'D LIKE TO KNOW....!

IT WAS GOING TO BE A **LONG** NIGHT, I COULD TELL, RIGHT OFF.

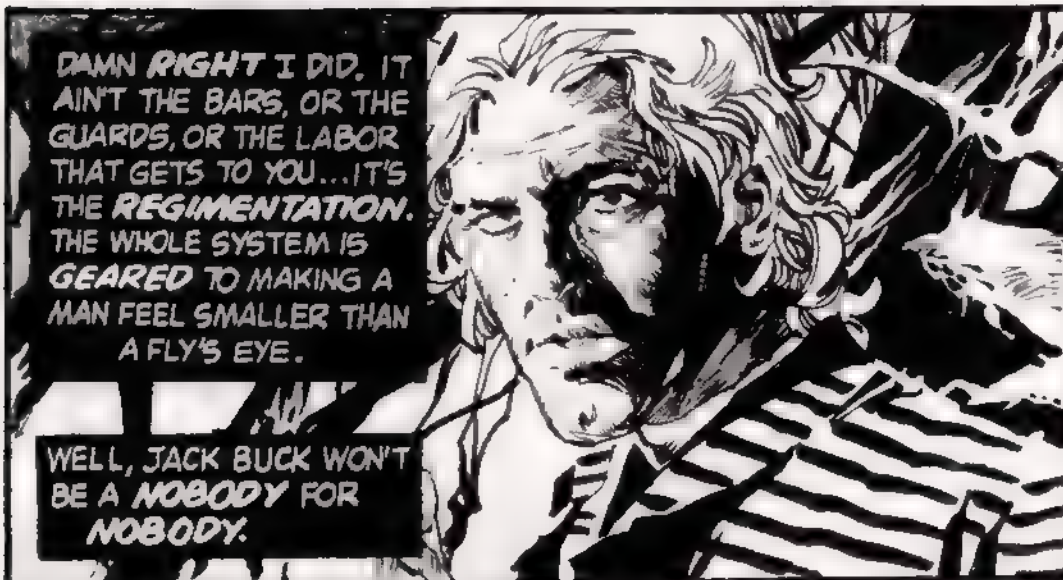


# JACK BUCK



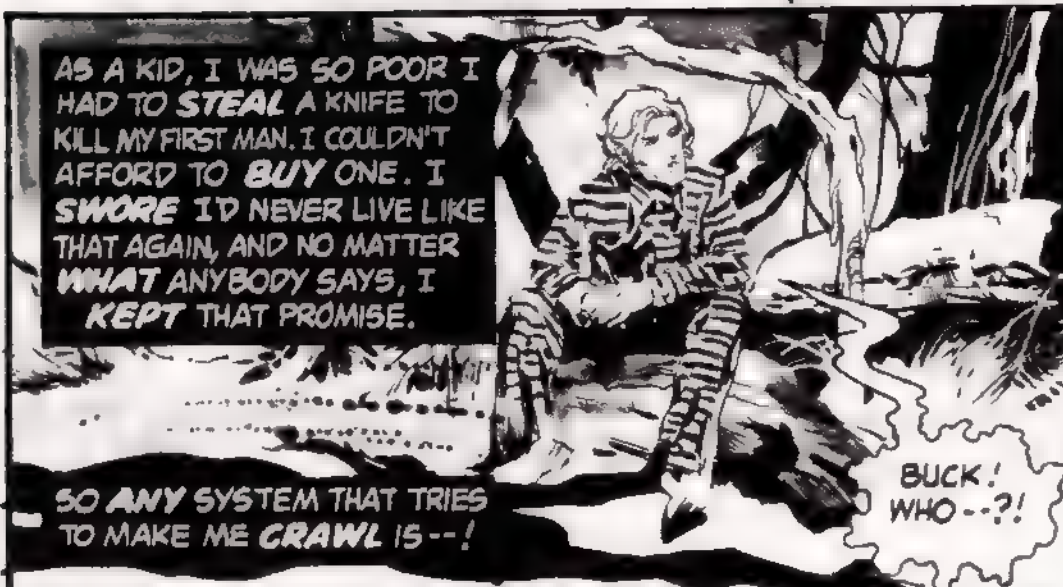
SO THIS IS **FREEDOM**. MY HEART BEATING LIKE A **JACKHAMMER**, MY LEGS SO SORE I'M WISHING THEY WERE AMPUTATED, AND A **SWAMP-SMELL** THAT MAKES ME WANT TO PUKE MY BRAINS OUT.

I BUSTED OUT OF PRISON FOR **THIS**?



DAMN **RIGHT** I DID. IT AIN'T THE BARS, OR THE GUARDS, OR THE LABOR THAT GETS TO YOU...IT'S THE **REGIMENTATION**. THE WHOLE SYSTEM IS **GEARED** TO MAKING A MAN FEEL SMALLER THAN A FLY'S EYE.

WELL, JACK BUCK WON'T BE A **NOBODY** FOR **NOBODY**.



AS A KID, I WAS SO POOR I HAD TO **STEAL** A KNIFE TO KILL MY FIRST MAN. I COULDN'T AFFORD TO **BUY** ONE. I **SWORE** I'D NEVER LIVE LIKE THAT AGAIN, AND NO MATTER **WHAT** ANYBODY SAYS, I **KEPT** THAT PROMISE.

SO **ANY** SYSTEM THAT TRIES TO MAKE ME **CRAWL** IS--!

BUCK! WHO--?!



DO THEY **HAVE** MIRAGES IN UPSTATE NEW YORK?

THEY MUST...OR THIS **RUNNING** HAS TURNED MY BRAINS TO CREAM OF **WHEAT**.

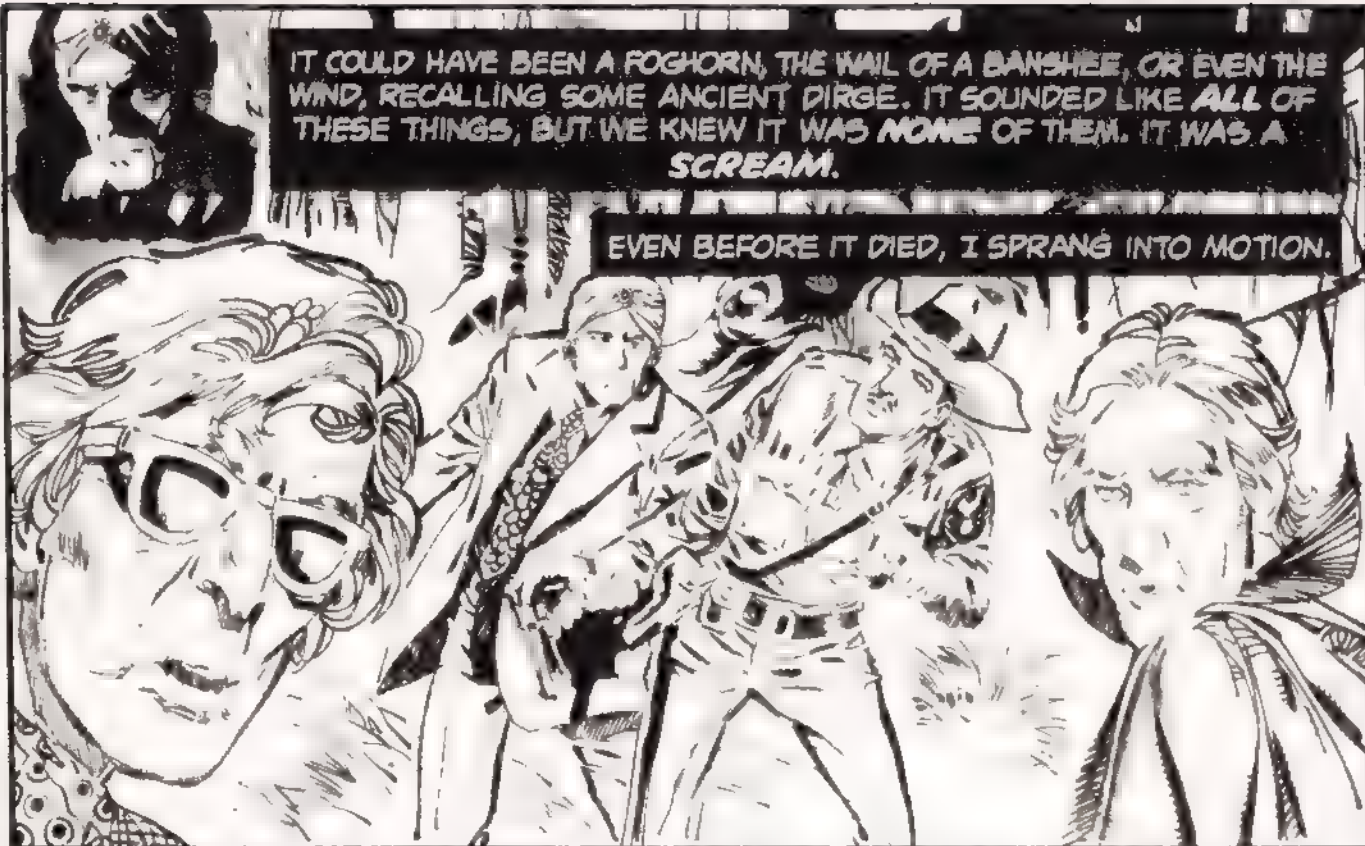
BUT IF THIS IS A **HALLUCINATION**, IT SURE HAS NICE **LEGS**.







# MITCHELL NEUSNER



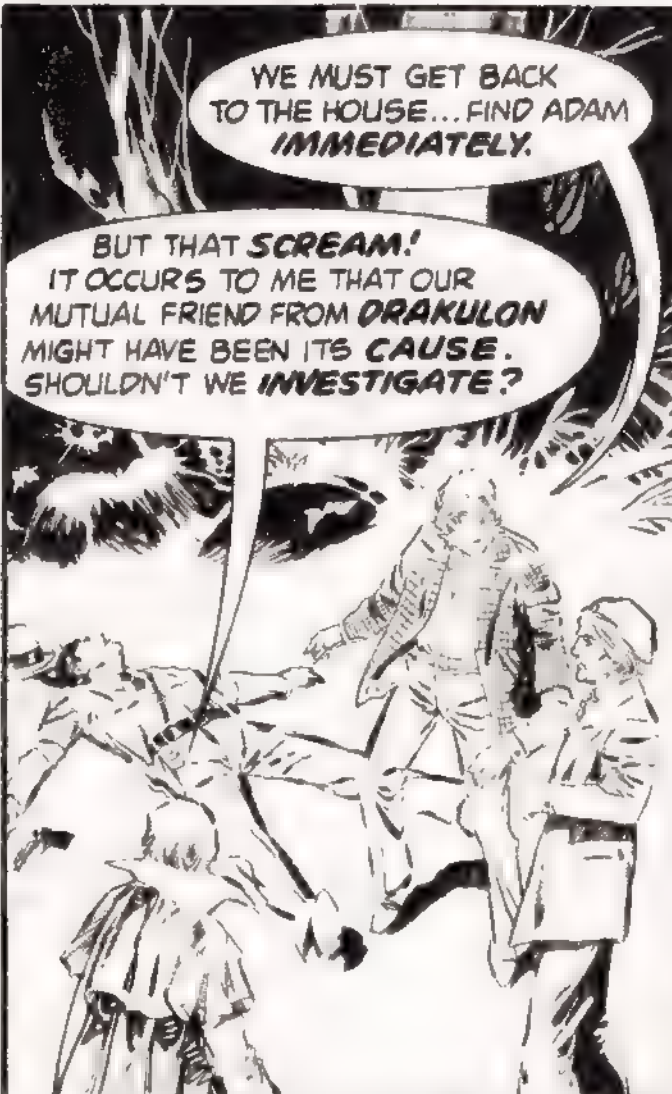
IT COULD HAVE BEEN A FOGHORN, THE WAIL OF A BANSHEE, OR EVEN THE WIND, RECALLING SOME ANCIENT DIRGE. IT SOUNDED LIKE **ALL** OF THESE THINGS, BUT WE KNEW IT WAS **NONE** OF THEM. IT WAS A **SCREAM**.

EVEN BEFORE IT DIED, I SPRANG INTO MOTION.

WHAT IS **HAPPENING** TO ME? I USED TO BE A **QUIET** MAN, A **SCHOLAR**; HOW DID I COME TO **TRADE** MY **ABSTRACT** PHILOSOPHIES FOR A **BLUDGEON**?



DOES **PROLONGED** **EXPOSURE** TO **VIOLENCE** **MAKE** A **MAN** **VIOLENT**...OR IS THAT JUST ANOTHER **TWENTIETH-CENTURY** **MYTH**?



WE MUST GET BACK TO THE HOUSE... FIND ADAM **IMMEDIATELY**.

BUT THAT **SCREAM**! IT OCCURS TO ME THAT OUR **MUTUAL** FRIEND FROM **DRAKULON** MIGHT HAVE BEEN ITS **CAUSE**. SHOULDN'T WE **INVESTIGATE**?



NOT **NOW**. IF **VAMPIR-ELLA** **DID** **ESCAPE**, IT MEANS SOMETHING HAS **HAPPENED** TO MY **SON**!

BESIDES, FOR THE **MOMENT**, WE'D DO WELL TO GET AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE FROM **SLEEPING** **BEAUTY** **HERE**.



I ONLY **ACTED** IN THE **INTERESTS** OF MY **FRIENDS**. I AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I TELL MYSELF. YET I CAN'T DENY THAT THE **EXCITEMENT** OF THE **PAST** **FEW** **DAYS**, **TERRIFYING** AS THEY'VE BEEN, HAS EXPOSED A **THRILL-SEEKING** ASPECT OF MY **NATURE** I NEVER KNEW **EXISTED**.



NO ONE **SPOKE** ON THE WAY BACK TO THE **COTTAGE**. WE ARRIVED TO FIND ADAM VAN **HELSING**, LYING LIKE A **DOORMAT** IN A **PUDGLE** OF **BLOOD**, WHICH WAS **UNMISTAKEABLY** **HIS**.

HE WAS **ALONE**.





ADAM... WHAT HAPPENED?

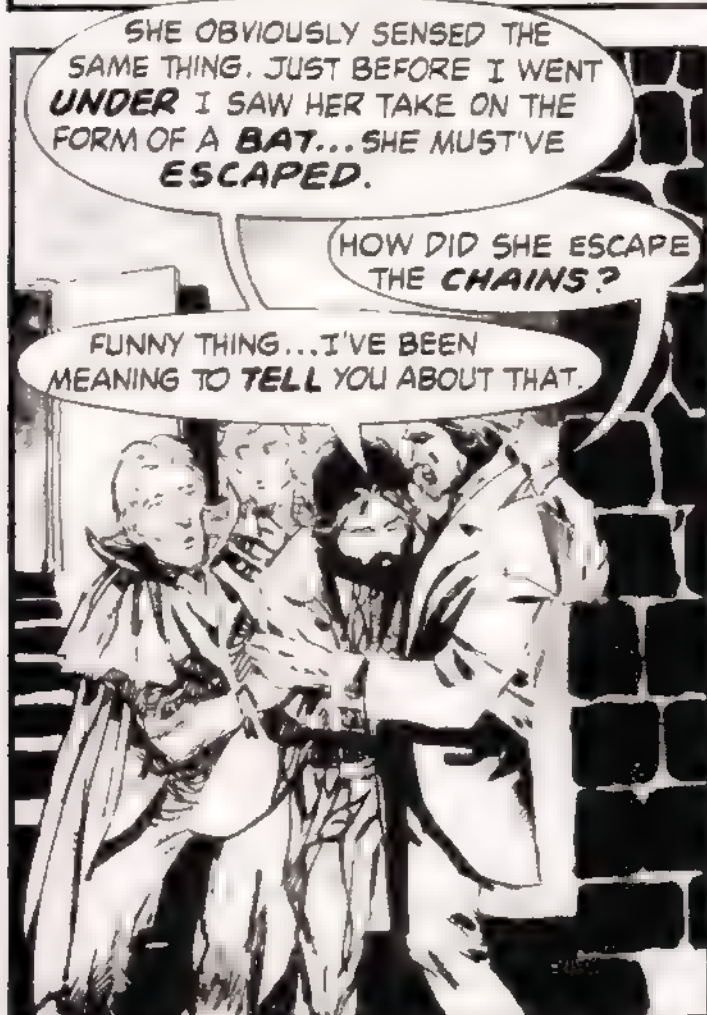
I'M...NOT... SURE...

THE BLOOD BALL HAS BEEN **SHATTERED!** ADAM MUST'VE FALLEN ON THE FRAGMENTS OF **GLASS!**



ALL I REMEMBER WAS THE CRYSTAL BALL **SMASHING**, THEN AN OVERPOWERING SENSATION OF **FEAR**... AS THOUGH SOMETHING **LOATHESOME**, AND **VILE**, WAS TRYING TO **ENTER** ME. THEN I **PASSED OUT**.

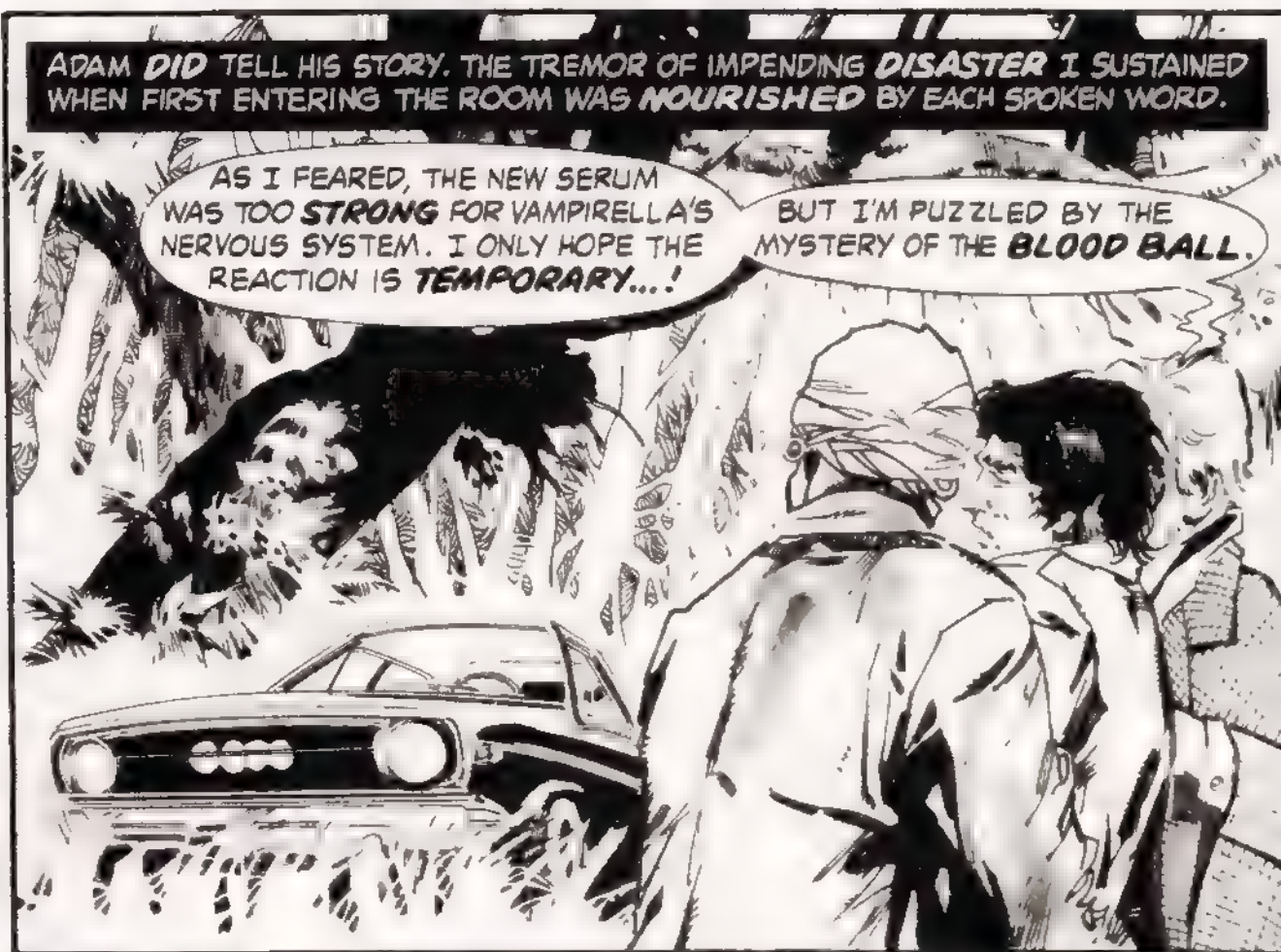
AND VAMPIRELLA?



SHE OBVIOUSLY SENSED THE SAME THING. JUST BEFORE I WENT **UNDER** I SAW HER TAKE ON THE FORM OF A **BAT**... SHE MUST'VE **ESCAPED**.

HOW DID SHE ESCAPE THE **CHAINS**?

FUNNY THING... I'VE BEEN MEANING TO **TELL** YOU ABOUT THAT.



ADAM **DID** TELL HIS STORY. THE TREMOR OF IMPENDING **DISASTER** I SUSTAINED WHEN FIRST ENTERING THE ROOM WAS **NOURISHED** BY EACH SPOKEN WORD.

AS I FEARED, THE NEW SERUM WAS TOO **STRONG** FOR VAMPIRELLA'S NERVOUS SYSTEM. I ONLY HOPE THE REACTION IS **TEMPORARY**...!

BUT I'M PUZZLED BY THE MYSTERY OF THE **BLOOD BALL**.



I'M NOT. DON'T YOU RECALL THE **REST** OF THE LEGEND? THE BLOOD BALL DRIVES MEN TO ACTS OF UNSPEAKABLE EVIL BECAUSE IT IS **EVIL ITSELF!**

IT CAN ONLY CONTROL THOSE WHOSE DARK NATURES ARE COMPATIBLE WITH ITS **OWN**; IT INDUCES THEM TO ACTS OF **VIOLENCE** THEN, LIKE A CRYSTAL SUCCUBUS, **ABSORBS** THE EVIL ENERGY THEIR DEEDS **PRODUCE!**



WHEN THE BALL DROPPED, THAT EVIL **ESSENCE** ESCAPED. FIRST, IT TRIED TO TAKE OVER **ADAM**, BUT FAILED, BECAUSE **HIS** DARK NATURE WAS NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO **MANIPULATE**.

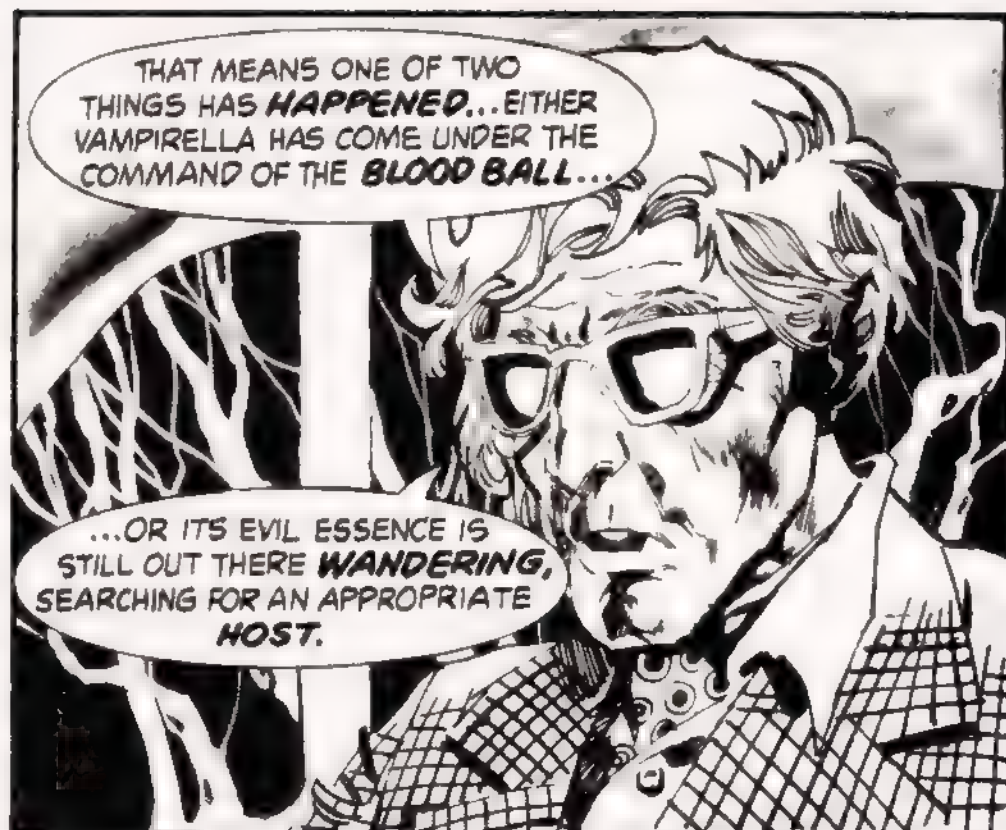
STILL, ITS AURA WAS SO SO STRONG, ADAM COULDN'T **WITHSTAND** IT WITHOUT **BLACKING OUT**.





WHAT ABOUT **VAMPIRELLA**?

I DON'T KNOW. THERE WAS OBVIOUSLY ENOUGH **EVIL** IN HER AT THAT MOMENT, SINCE THE SERUM HAD TURNED HER INTO A **MADDENED** ANIMAL. BUT PERHAPS SHE FLED **BEFORE** THE POWER HAD CHANCE TO TAKE HOLD.



THAT MEANS ONE OF TWO THINGS HAS **HAPPENED**... EITHER **VAMPIRELLA** HAS COME UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE **BLOOD BALL**...

...OR ITS **EVIL** ESSENCE IS STILL OUT THERE **WANDERING**, SEARCHING FOR AN APPROPRIATE **HOST**.

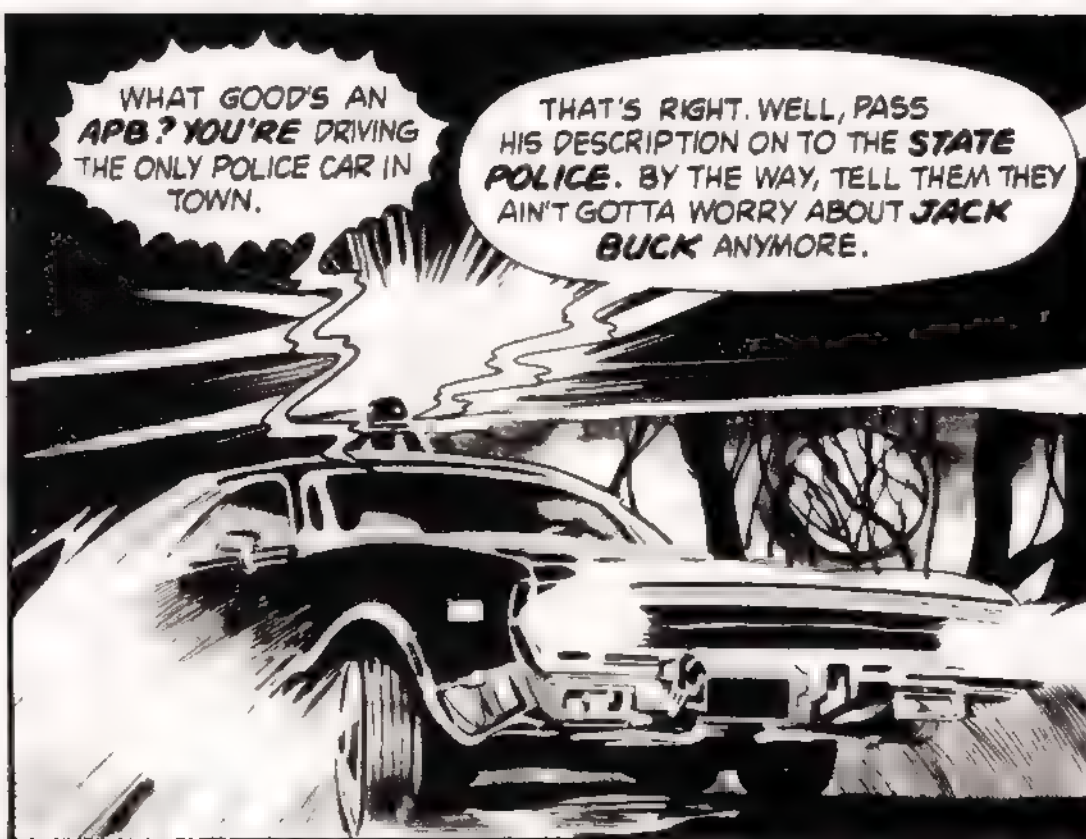


## ABNER LOWERY



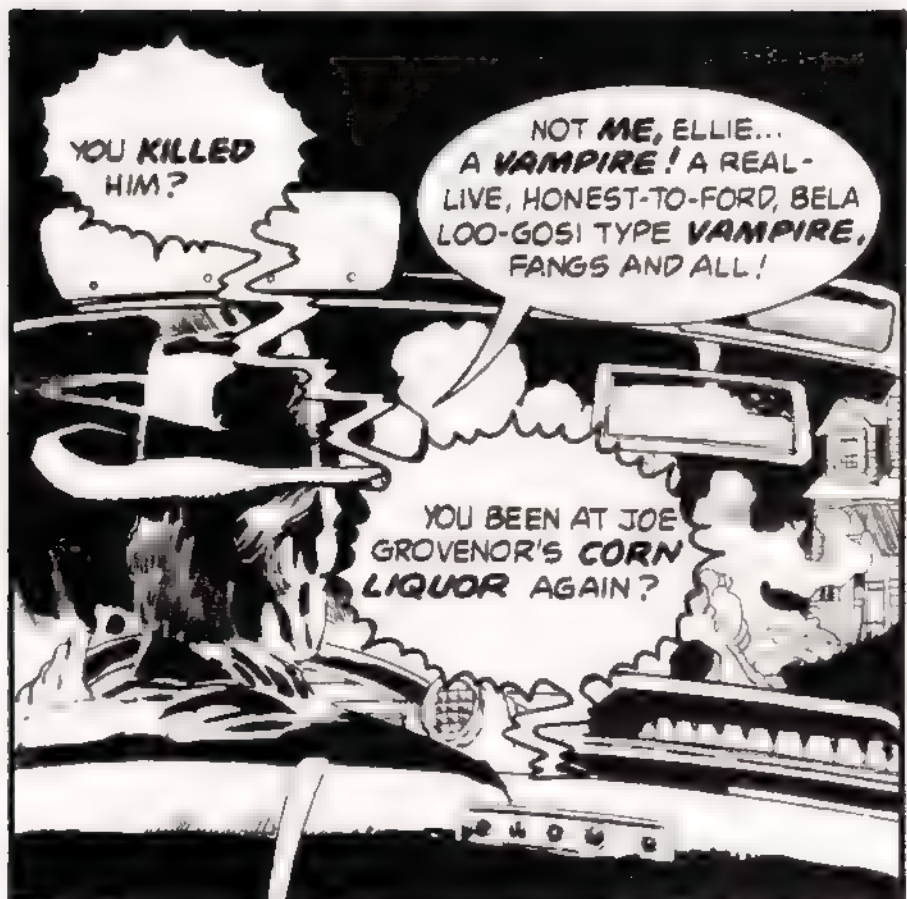
FACE IT, ABNER, YOU'VE SEEN BETTER DAYS. MY **HEAD** FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN THROUGH A **PRINTING PRESS**, AND I GOT A **LUMP** THE SIZE OF A **DOORKNOB** TO MATCH.

ELLIE, I WANNA PUT OUT AN **APB** ON THAT **NEWS-NEER** FELLAH...!



WHAT GOOD'S AN **APB**? YOU'RE DRIVING THE ONLY POLICE CAR IN TOWN.

THAT'S RIGHT. WELL, PASS HIS DESCRIPTION ON TO THE **STATE POLICE**. BY THE WAY, TELL THEM THEY AIN'T GOTTA WORRY ABOUT **JACK BUCK** ANYMORE.



YOU **KILLED** HIM?

NOT **ME**, ELLIE... A **VAMPIRE**! A REAL-LIVE, HONEST-TO-FORD, BELA LOO-GOSI TYPE **VAMPIRE**, FANGS AND ALL!

YOU BEEN AT JOE GROVENOR'S **CORN LIQUOR** AGAIN?



HANG IN THERE, ELLIE .. THERE'S SOMETHIN' **FUNNY** UP AHEAD HERE. IT'S LIKE A **MIST** OR A **FOG** OF SOME SORT...BUT IT'S THE DAMNDEST LOOKING CLOUD SINCE **HIROSHIMA**.

ABNER, YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO CALL **DOC COLLINS**? FIRST **VAMPIRES**, THEN **A-BOMBS**...!

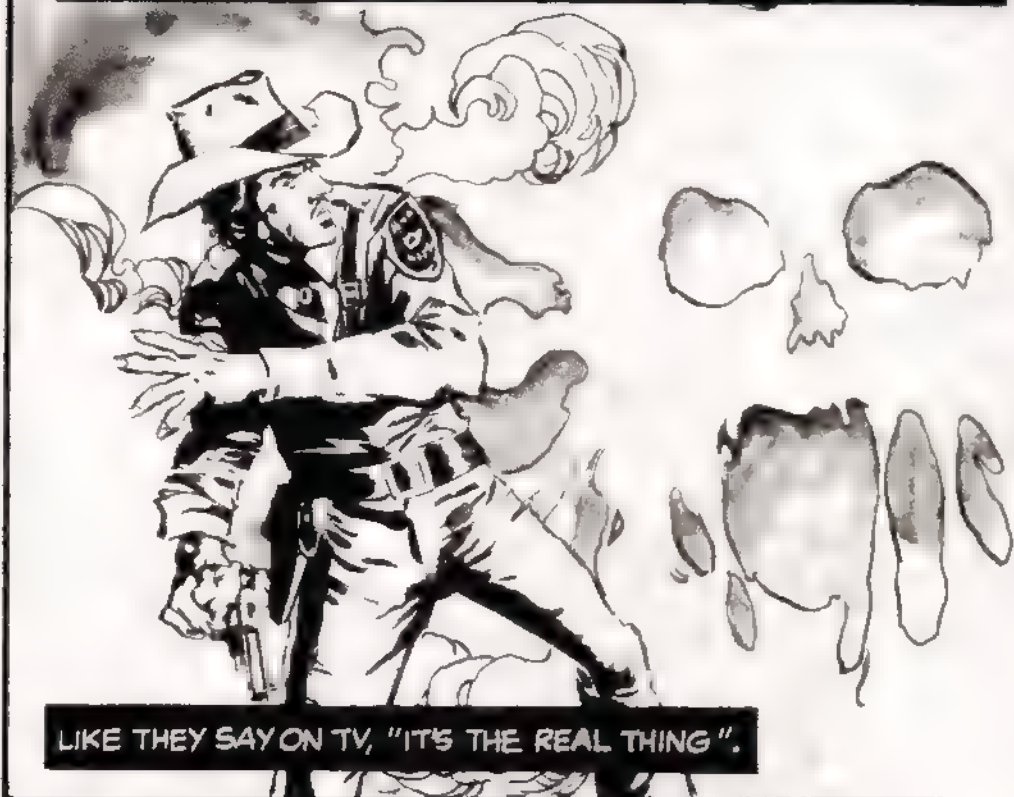


I'VE NEVER BEEN A MAN YOU COULD CALL A **COWARD**. I'VE **SEEN** ATROCITY, FIRST IN THE **MARINES**, THEN AS A **ROOKIE** IN THE STREETS OF THE BIG CITY, AND FINALLY **HERE**; I'VE **KNOWN** EVIL ALL MY LIFE.



BUT THIS IS SOMETHING **MORE**...

THIS IS **EVIL**...PURE, UNREFINED, UNDILUTED, UNADULTERATED, JUST THE WAY NATURE INTENDED, NO PRESERVATIVES ADDED.



LIKE THEY SAY ON TV, "IT'S THE REAL THING".

I MAY BE CRAZIER THAN A HYENA DURING A FULL MOON, BUT I SWEAR IT'S **INTELLIGENT**. THE WAY THINGS HAVE BEEN GOING FOR ME TODAY, IT'S PROBABLY **INDESTRUCTIBLE** TOO.



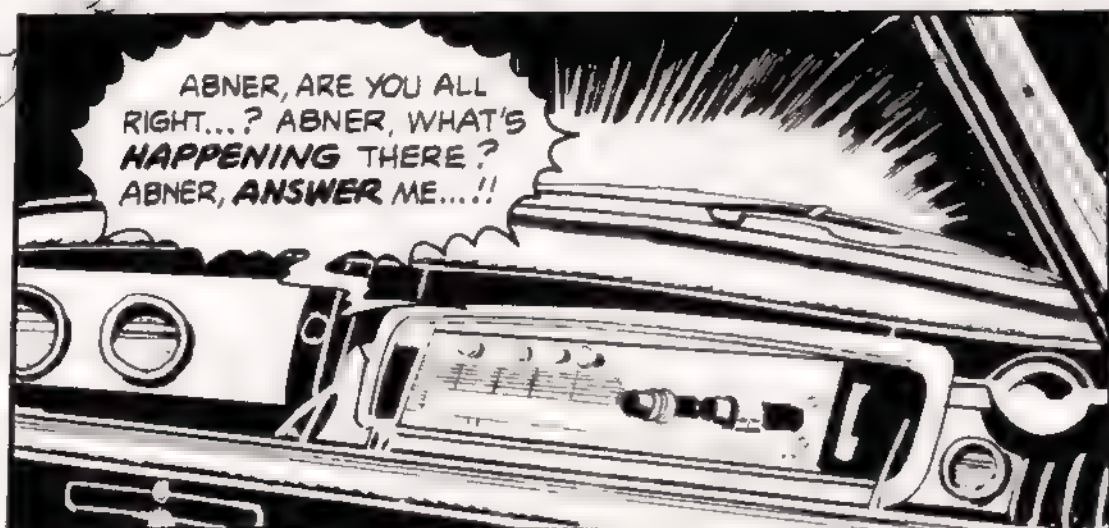
**BLAM!**

YUP...IT SURE IS.



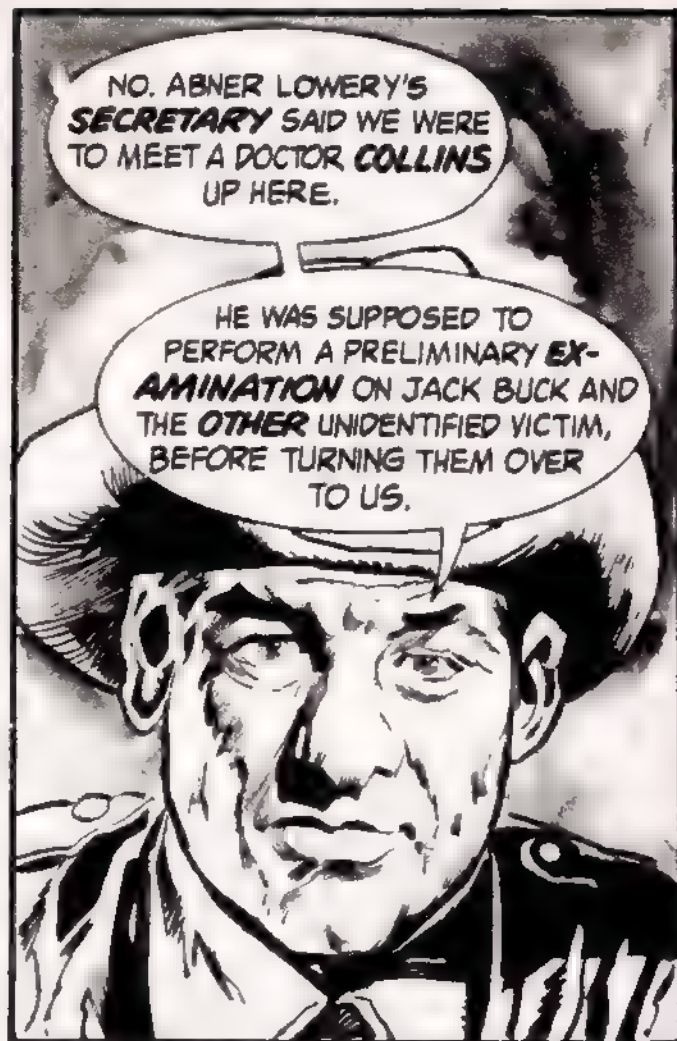
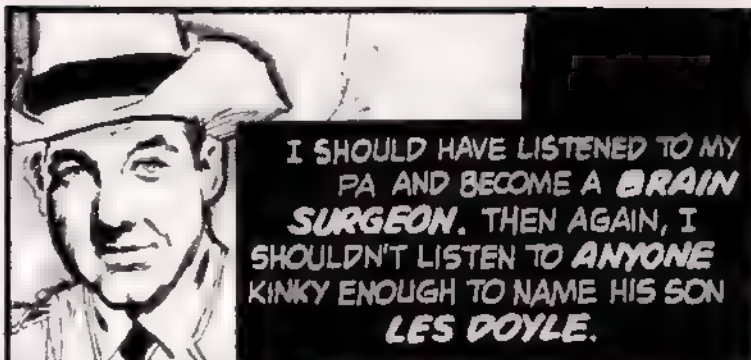
OH, GOD, I CAN FEEL IT **ENTER** ME. WHAT DOES IT WANT, HOW CAN IT **DO** THIS? IT'S **STRIPPING** MY **INSIDES**, IT--- IT---...!

ABNER, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...? ABNER, WHAT'S **HAPPENING** THERE? ABNER, **ANSWER** ME...!!



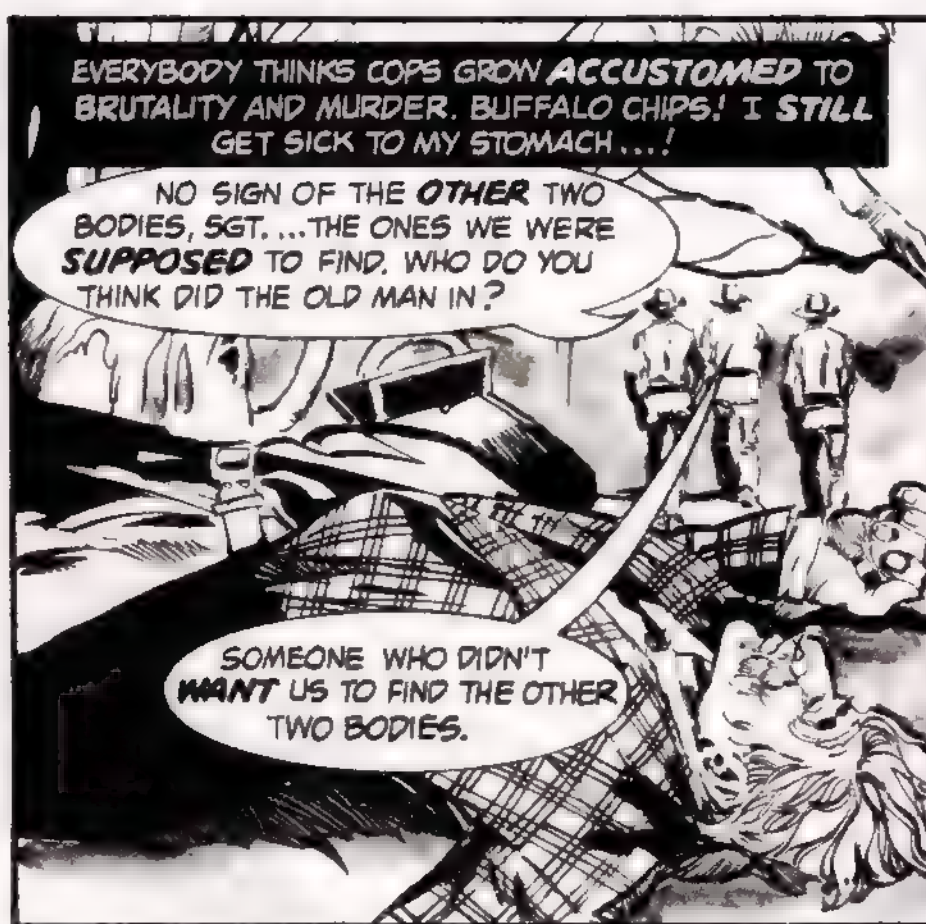


# SGT. LES DOYLE

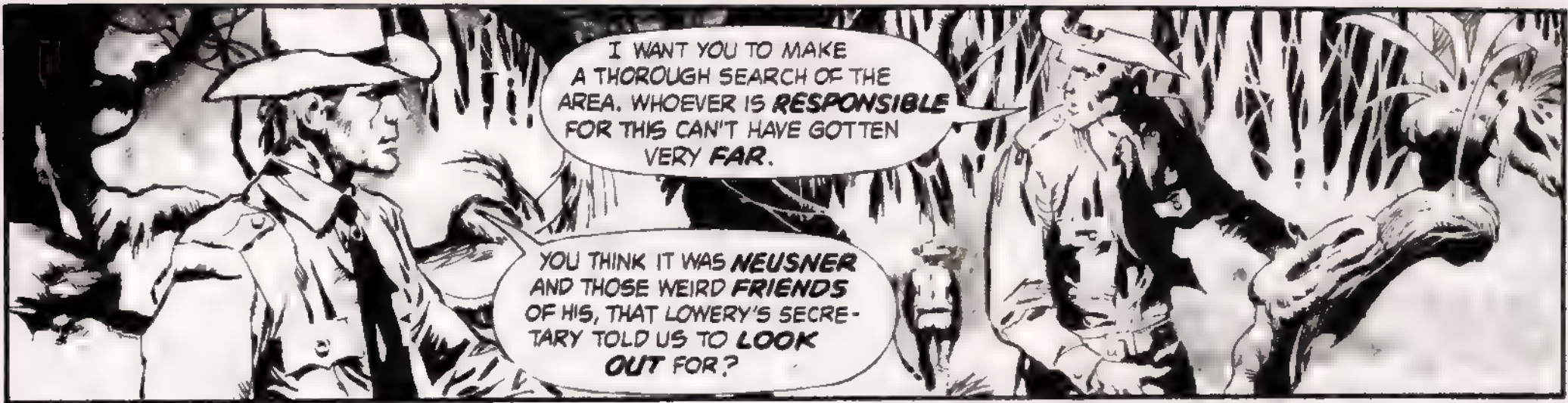


IT DIDN'T TAKE **ELLERY QUEEN** TO FIGURE OUT THAT THE DEAD MAN WAS **DOC COLLINS**. THE BLACK **MEDICAL BAG** BESIDE THE BODY TOLD US **THAT**.

NOR DID IT TAKE **MARCUS WELBY** TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF **DEATH**. THIRTEEN **STAB WOUNDS** IN THE CHEST WAS CAUSE ENOUGH FOR **ME**.







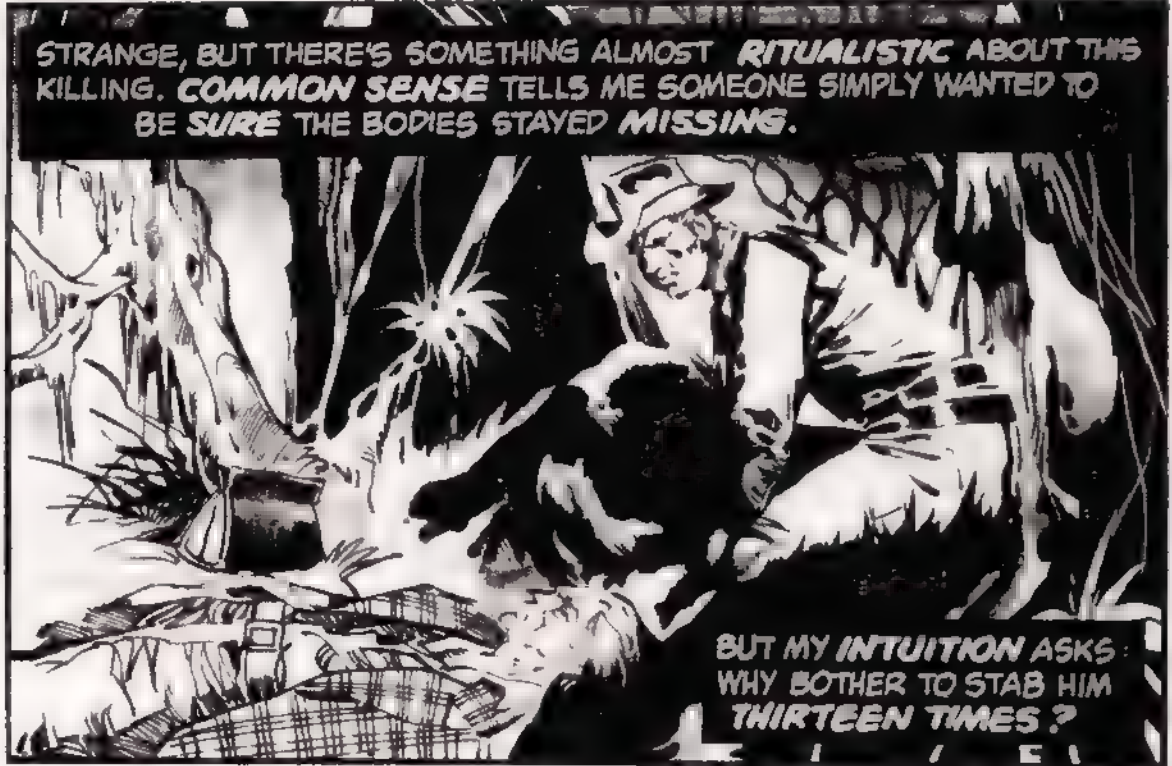
I WANT YOU TO MAKE A THOROUGH SEARCH OF THE AREA. WHOEVER IS **RESPONSIBLE** FOR THIS CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN VERY **FAR**.

YOU THINK IT WAS **NEUSNER** AND THOSE WEIRD **FRIENDS** OF HIS, THAT LOWERY'S SECRETARY TOLD US TO **LOOK OUT** FOR?



THEY CERTAINLY HAD THE **MOTIVE**. WITHOUT THE EVIDENCE OF THE **BODIES**, IT WOULD BE HARD TO CONVICT THEM OF **MURDER**.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY WERE ALL IN LOWERY'S **SIGHT** WHEN JACK BUCK GOT **HIS**. THAT'S ONE POINT FOR **THEIR** SIDE.

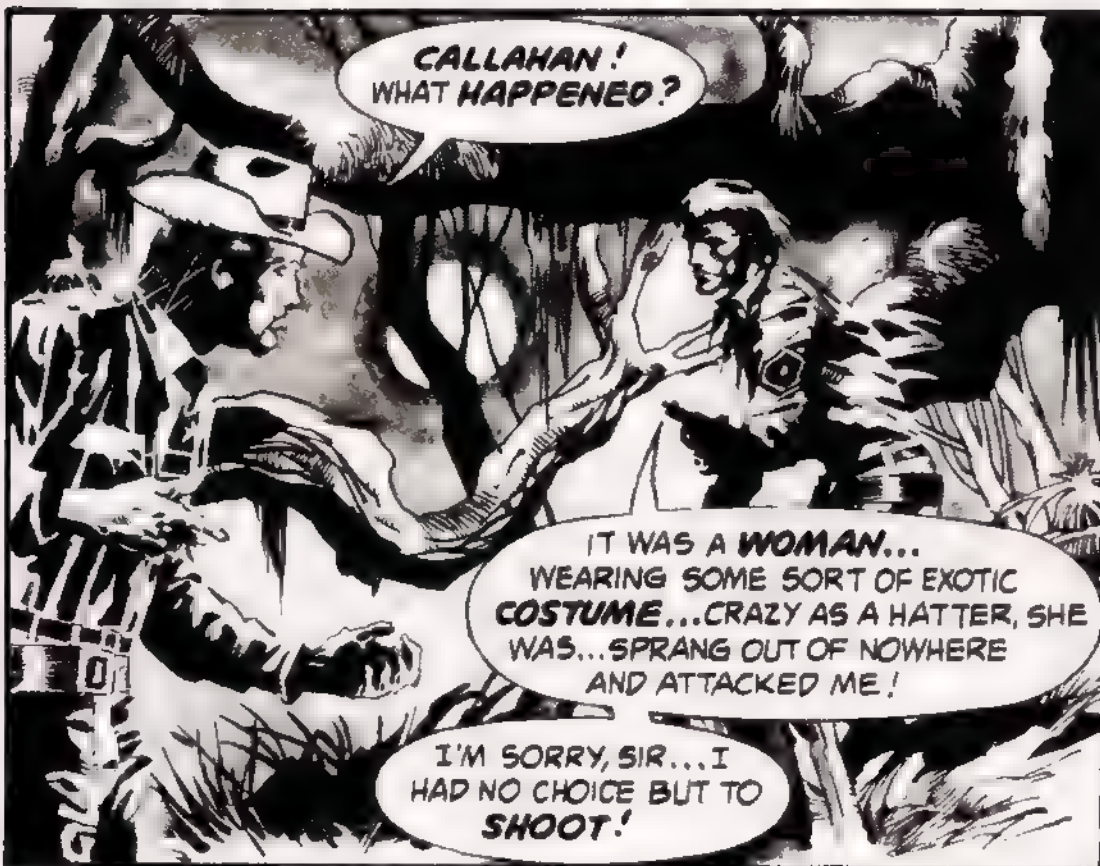


STRANGE, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ALMOST **RITUALISTIC** ABOUT THIS KILLING. **COMMON SENSE** TELLS ME SOMEONE SIMPLY WANTED TO BE **SURE** THE BODIES STAYED **MISSING**.

BUT MY **INTUITION** ASKS WHY BOTHER TO STAB HIM **THIRTEEN** TIMES?



WHAT THE--?



**CALLAHAN!**  
WHAT HAPPENED?

IT WAS A **WOMAN**... WEARING SOME SORT OF EXOTIC **COSTUME**... CRAZY AS A HATTER, SHE WAS... SPRANG OUT OF NOWHERE AND ATTACKED ME!

I'M SORRY, SIR... I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO **SHOOT!**



IS SHE--?

YES, SIR. I'M AFRAID SHE'S **DEAD**.

**END**





# VAMPIRELLA BACK ISSUES!



 #1901 VAMPI #1 \$8.00	 #1902 VAMPI #2 \$5.50	 #1904 VAMPI #4 \$5.00	 #1905 VAMPI #5 \$5.00	 #1906 VAMPI #6 \$5.00	 #1907 VAMPI #7 \$5.00	 #1908 VAMPI #8 \$5.00	 #1909 VAMPI #9 \$5.00	 #1910 VAMPI #10 \$4.00	 #1911 VAMPI #11 \$4.00	 #1912 VAMPI #12 \$4.00	 #1913 VAMPI #13 \$4.00
 #1914 VAMPI #14 \$4.00	 #1915 VAMPI #15 \$4.00	 #1916 VAMPI #16 \$3.75	 #1917 VAMPI #17 \$3.75	 #1918 VAMPI #18 \$3.50	 #1919 VAMPI #19 \$4.00	 #1920 VAMPI #20 \$3.25	 #1921 VAMPI #21 \$3.25	 #1922 VAMPI #22 \$3.25	 #1923 VAMPI #23 \$3.25	 #1924 VAMPI #24 \$3.25	 #1925 VAMPI #25 \$3.25
 #1926 VAMPI #26 \$2.50	 #1927 VAMPI #27 \$2.50	 #1928 VAMPI #28 \$2.50	 #1929 VAMPI #29 \$2.50	 #1930 VAMPI #30 \$2.50	 #1931 VAMPI #31 \$2.50	 #1932 VAMPI #32 \$2.25	 #1933 VAMPI #33 \$2.25	 #1934 VAMPI #34 \$2.25	 #1935 VAMPI #35 \$2.25	 #1936 VAMPI #36 \$2.50	 #1937 VAMPI #37 \$2.50
 #1938 VAMPI #38 \$2.25	 #1939 VAMPI #39 \$2.00	 #1940 VAMPI #40 \$2.00	 #1941 VAMPI #41 \$1.50	 #1942 VAMPI #42 \$1.50	 #1943 VAMPI #43 \$1.50	 #1944 VAMPI #44 \$1.50	 #1945 VAMPI #45 \$1.75	 #1946 VAMPI #46 \$1.75	 #1947 VAMPI #47 \$1.50	 #1948 VAMPI #48 \$1.50	 #1949 VAMPI #49 \$1.75
 #1950 VAMPI #50 \$1.50	 #1951 VAMPI #51 \$1.50	 #1952 VAMPI #52 \$1.50	 #1953 VAMPI #53 \$1.50								

**WHY WAIT AROUND? VAMPIRELLA IS HERE NOW—SO GRAB HER! ONE OF THE BEST COMIC MAGAZINES AROUND! AMAZING TALES OF DEMONICAL TERROR. BEAUTIFUL INSIDE ART AND COVERS. VAMPI, THE DELICIOUS DRACULONNE WILL TURN YOU ON!**

**SHE IS DEADLY! BUT YOU WILL LOVE HER WITH A PASSION. YOU CAN JOIN VAMPIRELLA IN HER OWN WORLD OF MAGIC AND MYSTERY. AND BE SURE TO LOOK FOR THE MANY ISSUES WHICH HAVE AN EIGHT PAGE FULL COLOR SECTION WHICH IS OH-SO LOVELY TO LOOK AT! WILL VAMPIRELLA AND PENDRAGON SURVIVE THROUGH ALL OF THEIR TORTUROUS ADVENTURES? YOU CAN FIND OUT BY SENDING FOR ALL OF THESE ACTION PACKED MAGAZINES. THEY'LL GO DOWN IN HISTORY WITH WARREN'S OTHER FINE MAGS! AS A COLLECTOR, YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF TO GET EACH AND EVERY EXCITING ISSUE. AS A READER AND A FAN OF THE FANTABULOUS VAMPIRELLA SERIES, YOU WON'T WANT TO HAVE MISSED ANY ONE OF OUR FAMOUS HEROINE'S THRILLING-CHILLING ADVENTURES! COMPLETE YOUR COLLECTION. IT WILL SURELY BE WORTH A FORTUNE TOMORROW!**



THERE IS NO AIR TO STIR THE TALL TIMBERS OR THE THICKETS AND COPPICES IN THIS BOSKY MARSH; NOTHING TO DISSIPATE THE GAMY ODORS OR CARRY THE SWARMS OF CARNIVEROUS INSECTS, SEEKING EXPOSED FLESH. IT IS UGLY AND LONELY HERE; REASONING IS OBSOLETE AND ONLY THE SURVIVAL INSTINCT MATTERS.

THIS IS NOT A GOOD NIGHT FOR SURVIVORS. ALREADY IT HAS SEEN FOUR PEOPLE DEAD, ONE INJURED, TWO INSANE, AND THREE WANTED FOR MURDER.

THE NIGHT IS STILL YOUNG.

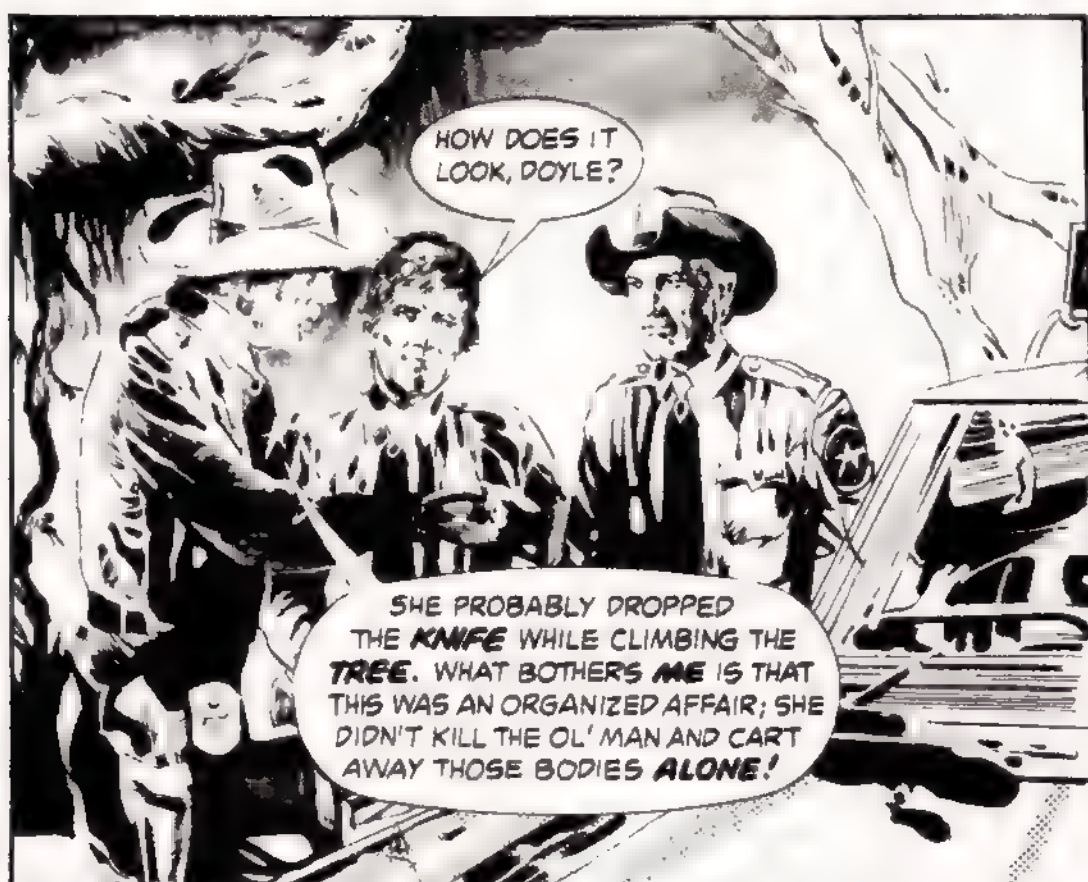
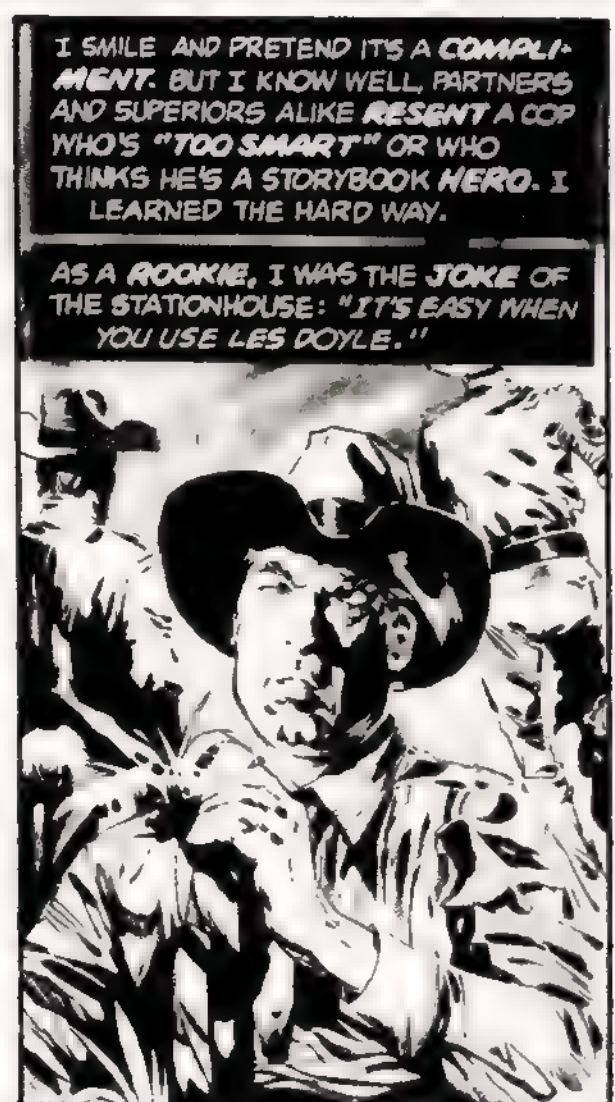
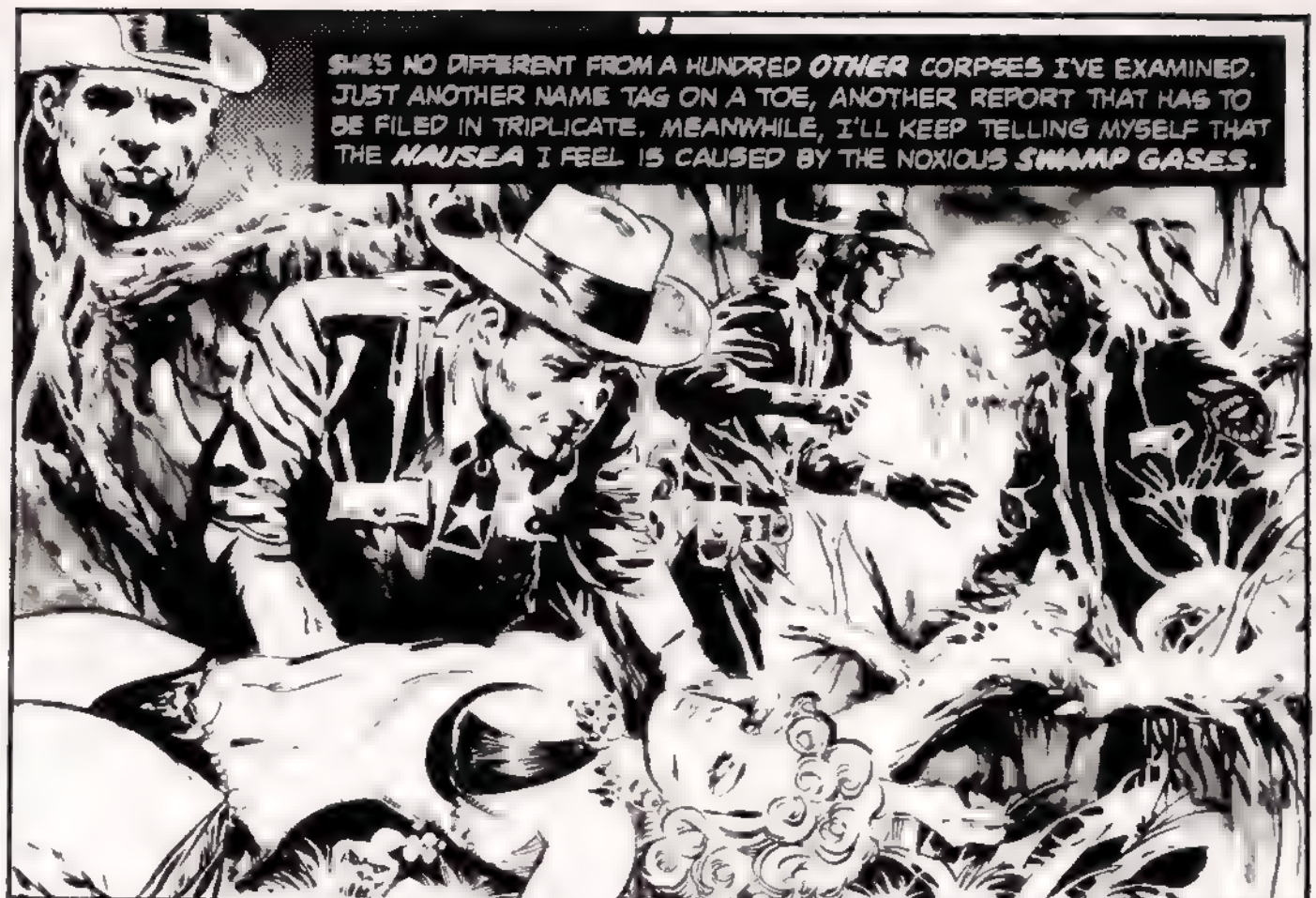
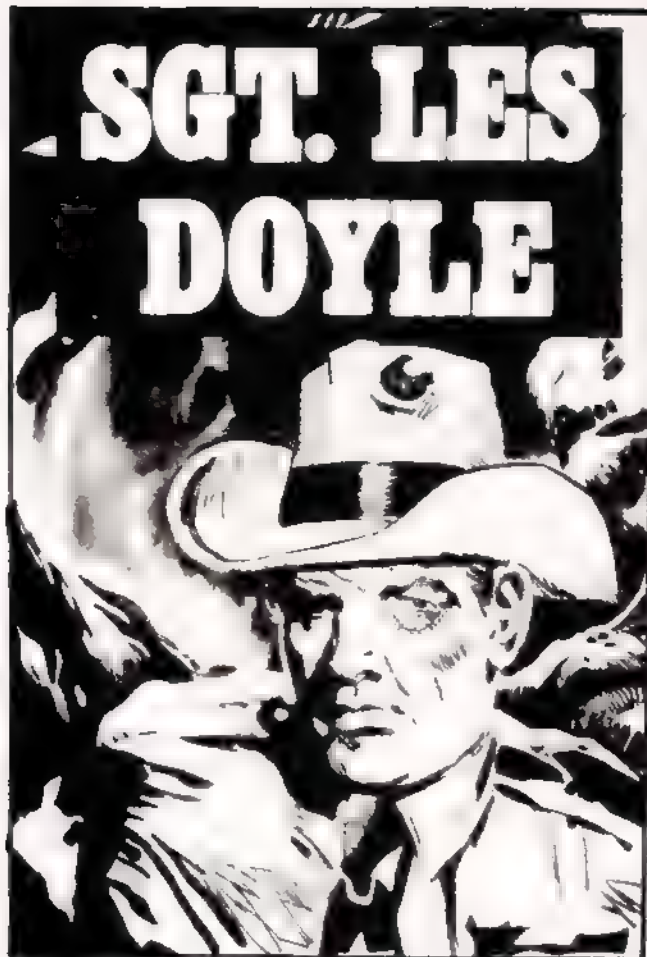
# VAMPIRELLA

## Chaos in a Sleepy Suburb

SHE MUST HAVE BEEN  
CRAZY, SARGEANT. SHE JUMPED  
RIGHT OUT OF THAT TREE AND  
ATTACKED ME! I HAD TO  
SHOOT HER!

NO ONE'S BLAMING  
YOU. IT'S JUST UNFORTUNATE  
...SHE PROBABLY COULD HAVE  
EXPLAINED WHY OL' DOC  
COLLINS WAS MURDERED....







# BELINDA BANNING



THEY'VE KILLED ANNETTE, I'M CERTAIN OF IT. WHY DO I FEEL NO LOSS OR GRIEF? AM I SO COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE THAT I WELCOME A MARTYR, EVEN WHEN IT'S MY BEST FRIEND AND ROOMMATE?

OR HAVE I BECOME SO MUCH A PART OF CHAOS THAT DEATH NO LONGER HAS A MEANING?



ANNETTE WAS THE QUIETEST GIRL IN THE SORORITY UNTIL WE HEARD ABOUT THIS FREAKY OFF-CAMPUS CULT. WE CRASHED ONE OF THEIR MEETINGS JUST FOR A LARK.

THE LARK BECAME A VULTURE. INSTEAD OF A FEW LAUGHS, ANNETTE FOUND HERSELF A NICHE...AN OUTLET FOR WHATEVER DEVILS WERE INSIDE HER.

SHE BECAME OBSESSED WITH THE CULT; IT'S WORKINGS, IT'S AIMS, IT'S SECRETS I JUST TAGGED ALONG, TOO SCARED TO BACK DOWN.

NOW SHE'S DEAD, AND I'M TOO EMPTY TO EVEN BE AFRAID.



AND YET WHAT DOES DEATH MATTER TO THOSE WITH THE POWER TO IGNORE IT?

LET THE RESURRECTION RITUAL BEGIN! TO PROPGATE THE DESIGNS OF OUR GREAT LORD AND MASTER, WE SUMMON FORTH EVEN THE DEAD!



WHY AM I HERE? WHY AM I CELEBRATING THE VERY THINGS THAT WILL DESTROY ME? I CAN'T BE THAT MUCH OF A MASOCHIST.



DEAN OF DARKNESS AND DISORDER...PRINCE OF THE PROFANE...DISRUPTOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH...HEAR US!

I SUPPOSE THERE'S A SUBTLE IRONY IN THE INVOCATION. WE, THE SERVANTS, ARE COMMANDING THE MASTER TO COME FORTH SO THAT WE CAN, IN TURN, BE HIS SERVANTS AGAIN.

IT'S ENOUGH TO GIVE EVEN A GOD AN IDENTITY CRISIS.





HE SPEAKS NOW THE PRESCRIBED WORDS OF THE **CRIMSON CHRONICLES**; ANCIENT **PHONETICS**, I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE CHANT, BUT IT FLOWS LIKE WICKED, WANTON **MUSIC** FROM THE TONGUE, ITS RHYTHM EXOTIC, LEWD, **OBSCENE**.

EACH **PAUSE** IS A BOTTOMLESS SILENCE, CHARGED WITH **ANTICIPATION**.



ALL EYES ARE ON THE DEAD.



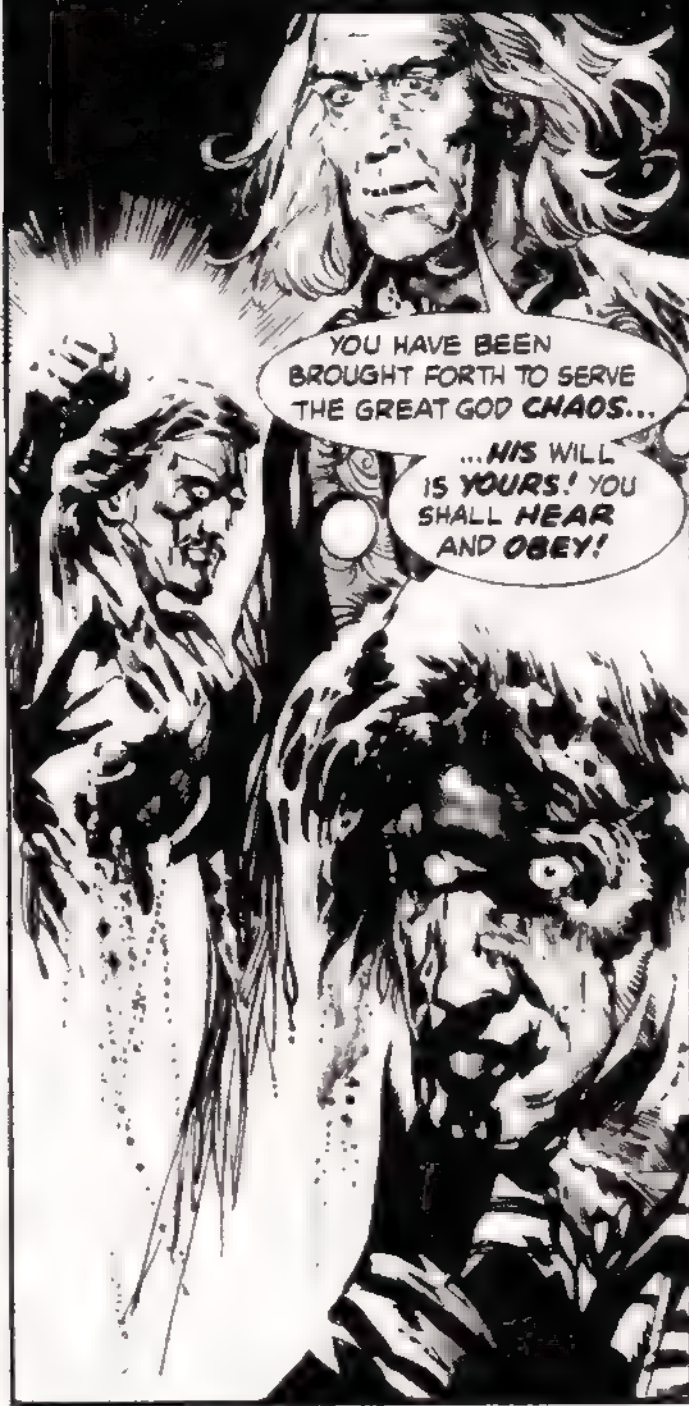
IT IS DONE; AN ACT OF COLLECTIVE **FATHERHOOD**, DELIVERED BY AN INFERNAL **MIDWIFE**. I DON'T KNOW, WHETHER I FEEL MORE LIKE **GOD** OR **DR. FRANKENSTEIN**.



HAVE WE **GIVEN** LIFE TO THE UNLIVING, OR **DENIED** THEM THE MERCY OF **DEATH**?



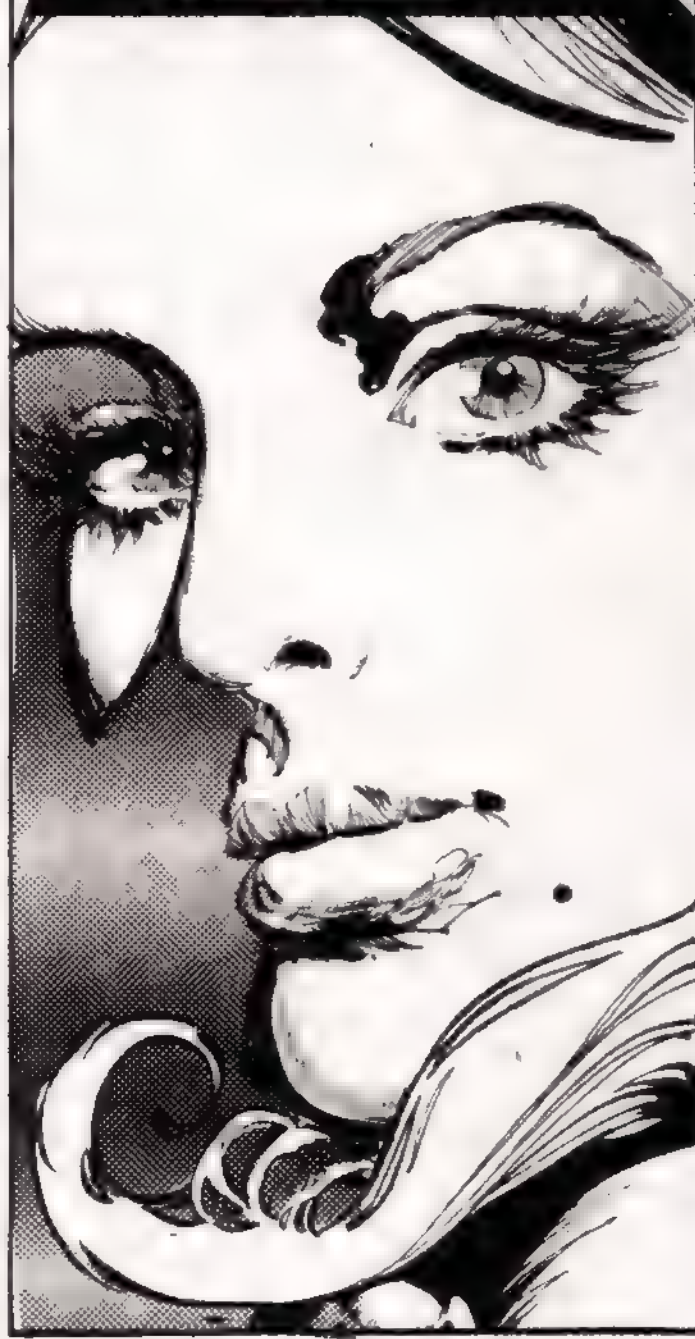
MURDER MAY BE **EVIL**, BUT RE-BIRTH IS THE **ULTIMATE BLASPHEMY**.



YOU HAVE BEEN BROUGHT FORTH TO SERVE THE GREAT GOD **CHAOS**...

...**HIS** WILL IS **YOURS**! YOU SHALL **HEAR** AND **OBEY**!

I COULDN'T SUPPRESS A **GIGGLE**. FOR A CULT DEVOTED TO **COSMIC ANARCHY**, THERE IS A HELL OF A LOT OF **REGIMENTATION** WITHIN THE **CHAOS RANKS**.





# VAMPIRELLA



RIGHT NOW, I FEEL ABOUT AS **EFFECTIVE** AS A SPONGE IN THE DESERT. MY HEAD IS **CHURNING**, AND I THINK MY **INSIDES** HAVE BEEN SIPHONED OUT.

BUT THE **PHYSICAL** PART IS THE **EASY** PART. IT'S THE **EMOTIONAL** PAIN THAT **HURTS**.



I REMEMBER THE **BLOOD SUBSTITUTE** ADAM GAVE ME... A SUDDEN RUSH OF **EUPHORIA**, THEN SOMETHING DIFFERENT ...ALMOST **BEASTIAL**. MY WILL DIVORCED ITSELF FROM MY BODY.



THERE, BUT FOR THE SMASHING OF THE **BLOOD-BALL**, AND THE SICKENING EVIL **MIST** THAT ESCAPED FROM IT...! WHATEVER DARK FORCES WE **LIBERATED**, I WAS TOO WEAK TO **CHALLENGE**...



...SO I **FLED**, LEAVING ADAM UNPROTECTED.

THEN THAT MAN, THE **CONVICT**. I DIDN'T EVEN NEED HIS **BLOOD**, I WAS JUST **COMPELLED** BY THIS PRIMITIVE, IRRESISTABLE URGE TO **STRIKE**.



AFTER THAT, I MUST HAVE BLACKED OUT.

WHAT **NOW**? DO I CRAWL BACK TO **ADAM** AND TELL HIM I'M **SORRY** I TRIED TO **KILL** HIM? BEG HIS **FORGIVENESS**, SWEAR I **LOVE** HIM, THEN ASK HIM TO **TRUST** ME AGAIN?



MAYBE...IF THIS WERE AN **ERICH SEGAL** NOVEL. BUT IN **LIFE**, THINGS ARE NOT THAT **SIMPLE**.

I'VE PROVED EVERYONE'S WORST FEARS **TRUE**. I AM AN ANIMAL ...DANGEROUS, UNPREDICTABLE, UNTAMABLE.

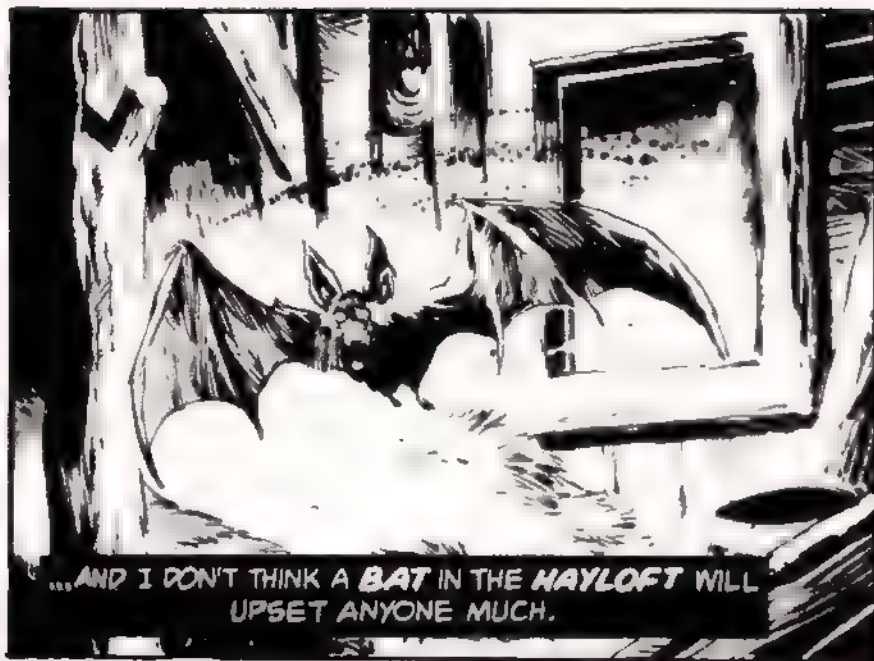


EVEN THOUGH THE **EFFECTS** OF THE DRUG HAVE WORN OFF, WHAT **GUARANTEE** DOES ANYONE HAVE THAT IT WON'T HAPPEN **AGAIN**?



MAYBE TIME IS ALL I NEED. TIME TO RE-EVALUATE MYSELF, MAKE SOME NEW DECISIONS, SEE MY RELATIONSHIPS IN A DIFFERENT, MORE REALISTIC PERSPECTIVE.

BUT FOR THE MOMENT, I'M COLD, WET, AND TIRED. THAT BARN SHOULD MAKE AN EXPEDIENT SHELTER...



...AND I DON'T THINK A BAT IN THE HAYLOFT WILL UPSET ANYONE MUCH.



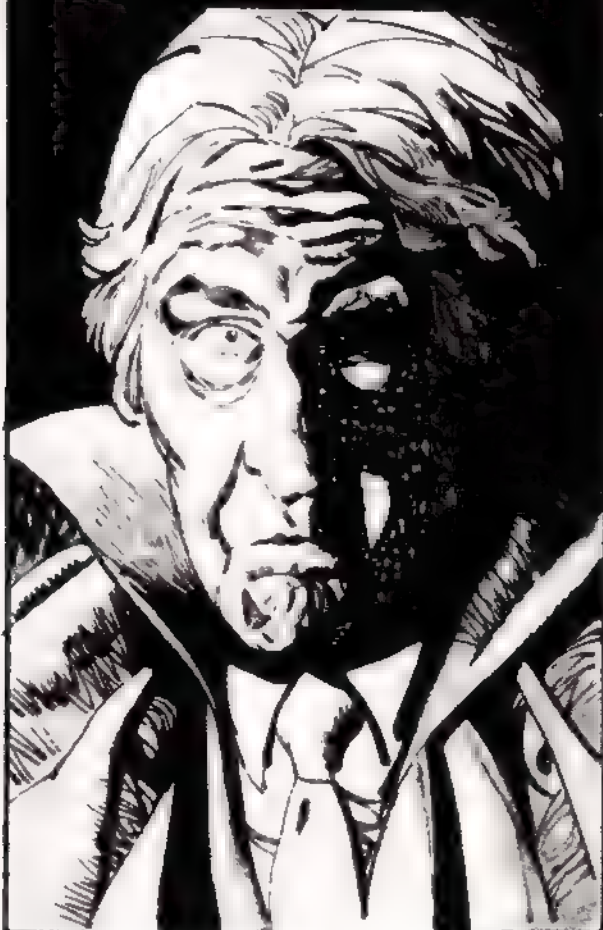
# PENDRAGON

FOUR PEOPLE CRAMPED INTO A SINGLE CAR AND THE SILENCE IS THICKER THAN THE FORT KNOX VAULT. WORDS ARE IN EVERYONE'S MIND BUT NOT ON THEIR TONGUE.



FUNNY. NOT ONCE DURING THE COURSE OF THIS SOMEWHAT DISCONCERTING DAY HAVE I FELT THE URGE TO REACH FOR MY FLASK. PERHAPS BECAUSE I FEEL NEEDED.

IF THEY COULD BOTTLE THAT, THE WHOLE WORLD WOULD BE ALCOHOLICS.



HOW MUCH FARTHER MUST WE GO? HE'S LOSING BLOOD STEADILY, AND THERE ARE STILL FRAGMENTS OF BROKEN GLASS IN HIS BODY THAT WE COULDN'T REMOVE.

DOC COLLINS PLACE IS ABOUT ANOTHER FIFTEEN MILES. I JUST HOPE WE DON'T MEET UP WITH SHERIFF LOWERY EN ROUTE. HE STILL BELIEVES WE MURDERED PAUL DALTREY!



THERE'S A GENERAL STORE UP AHEAD. WE'D BETTER STOP AND GET SOME MORE BAND-AIDS. IT MAY BE THE ONLY WAY TO HOLD ADAM TOGETHER LONG ENOUGH.



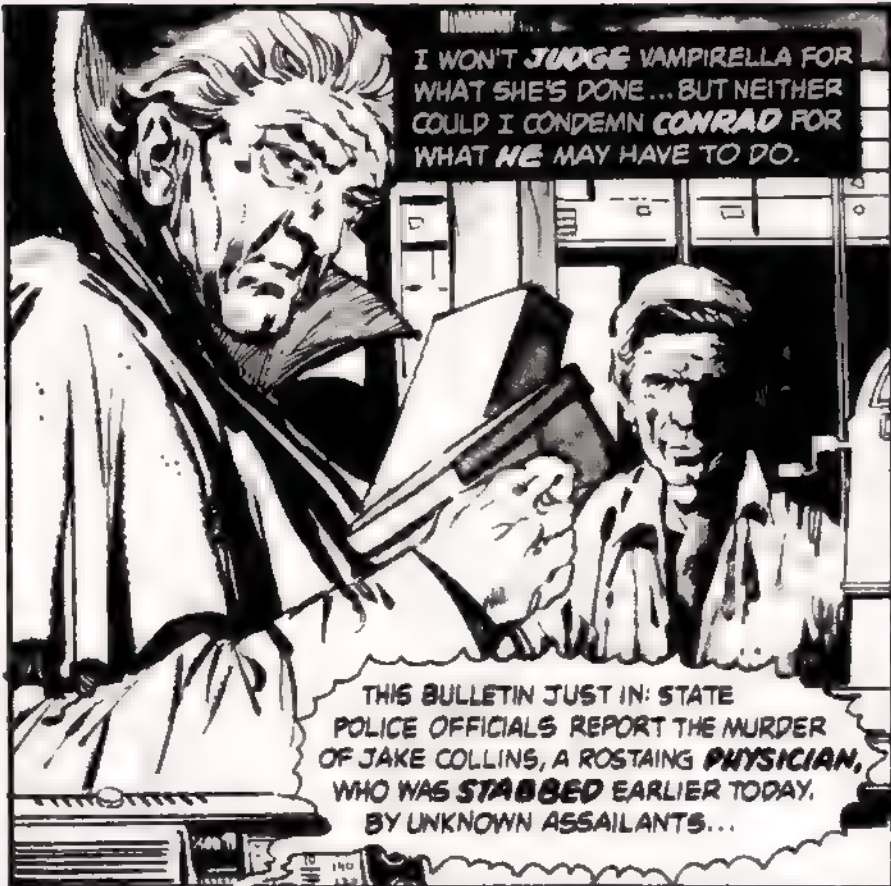


THE SAD THING IS THAT, EVEN IF WE DO SAVE HIM, THINGS MAY NEVER BE THE SAME. VAMPIRELLA HAS COMMITTED THE **ONE ACT** THAT JUST MIGHT BE **UNFORGIVEABLE** IN THE EYES OF THE VAN HELSINGS.



I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHERE MY **OWN** LOYALTIES LIE ANYMORE.

I WON'T **JUDGE** VAMPIRELLA FOR WHAT SHE'S DONE... BUT NEITHER COULD I CONDEMN **CONRAD** FOR WHAT **HE** MAY HAVE TO DO.



THIS BULLETIN JUST IN: STATE POLICE OFFICIALS REPORT THE MURDER OF JAKE COLLINS, A ROSTAING **PHYSICIAN**, WHO WAS **STABBED** EARLIER TODAY, BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS...

...POLICE ARE SEEKING **MITCHELL NEUSNER**, A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR AND OCCULT SCHOLAR, FOR **QUESTIONING**.

WHAT'S THE **MATTER**, BUDDY? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU BEEN **GOOSED** BY A **PITCHFORK**!



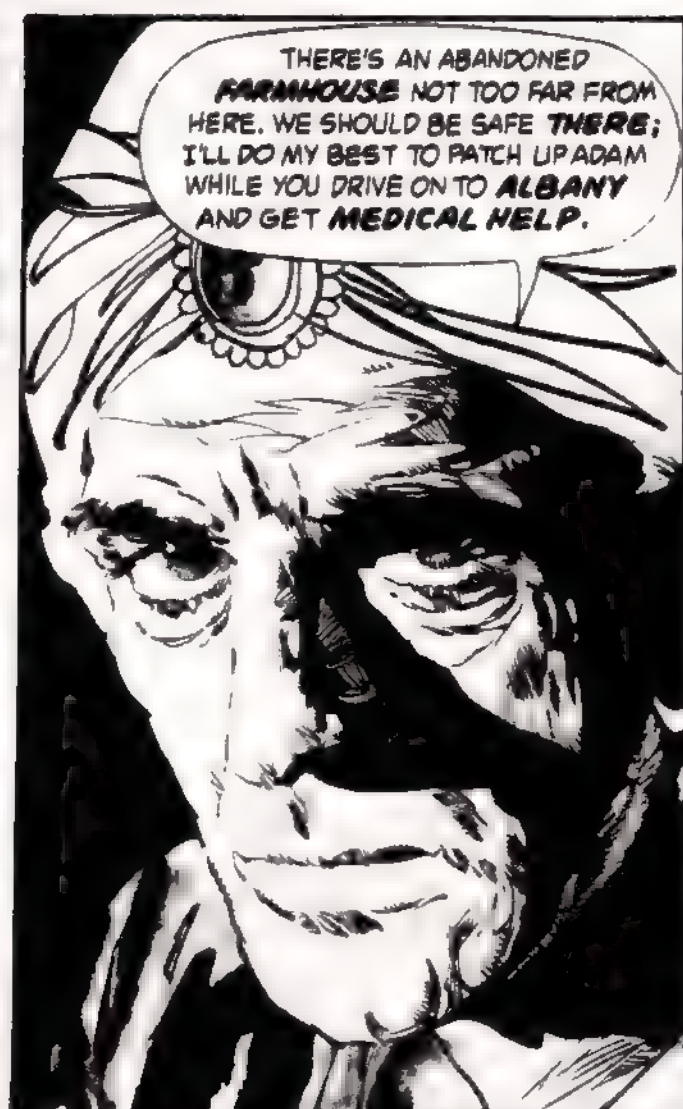
I FED HIS CASH REGISTER, AND WITHOUT WAITING FOR THE CHANGE, BROUGHT THE BAD NEWS AND BANDAGES BACK TO THE CAR.

THE DOCTOR IS **DEAD**, AND WE'VE BEEN CAST INTO THE LOCAL **SPOTLIGHT**... AS PRIME **SUSPECTS**.

WHAT CAN WE **DO**? ADAM WILL NEVER **MAKE** IT AS FAR AS THE NEXT TOWN.



THERE'S AN ABANDONED **FARMHOUSE** NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE. WE SHOULD BE SAFE **THERE**; I'LL DO MY BEST TO PATCH UP ADAM WHILE YOU DRIVE ON TO **ALBANY** AND GET **MEDICAL HELP**.



IT WAS SCARCELY A **WEEK** AGO, WE WERE ALL SITTING IN A GREENWICH VILLAGE MOVIE THEATRE, WATCHING "NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD." NOW I FEEL LIKE I'M **LIVING IT**.



IN FACT... DAMNED IF THAT DON'T LOOK LIKE THE SAME **FARMHOUSE** I SAW IN THE **FILM**.



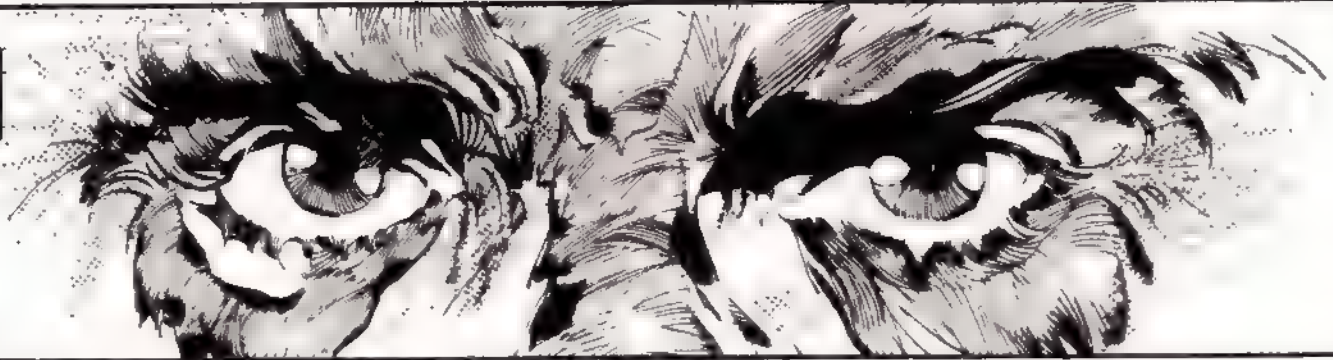
# ABNER LOWERY



SOMETHING HAPPENING  
CAN'T HOLD COHERENT  
THOUGHT TRYING TO THROW  
ME OUT OF MY OWN BODY  
CAN'T LET IT CAN'T HELP IT

PAPA ALWAYS TOLD ME I  
WAS A STRONG WILLED  
SON OF A BUT ITS EATING  
MY BRAIN SO HARD TO  
THINK CHRIST WHAT IS IT

EVIL EVILER EVILEST  
IM EVIL IM IT



BLOOD BROKEN GLASS BALL NOW CRIES  
OUT FOR VENGEANCE SPIRIT NEEDS HOST  
BODY WOMAN MUST DIE



WOMAN BEAUTIFUL DARK HAIRD FIND  
VENGEANCE KILL

NO! WHATEVER YOU  
ARE...I WON'T BE CON-  
TROLLED! I--I--!



STRONGER SO DAMNABLY EVIL FIND  
WOMAN AND KILL

FARMHOUSE OLD POST ROAD SHE IS THERE  
BEAUTIFUL EVIL NO MORE WILL I MUST  
GO THERE

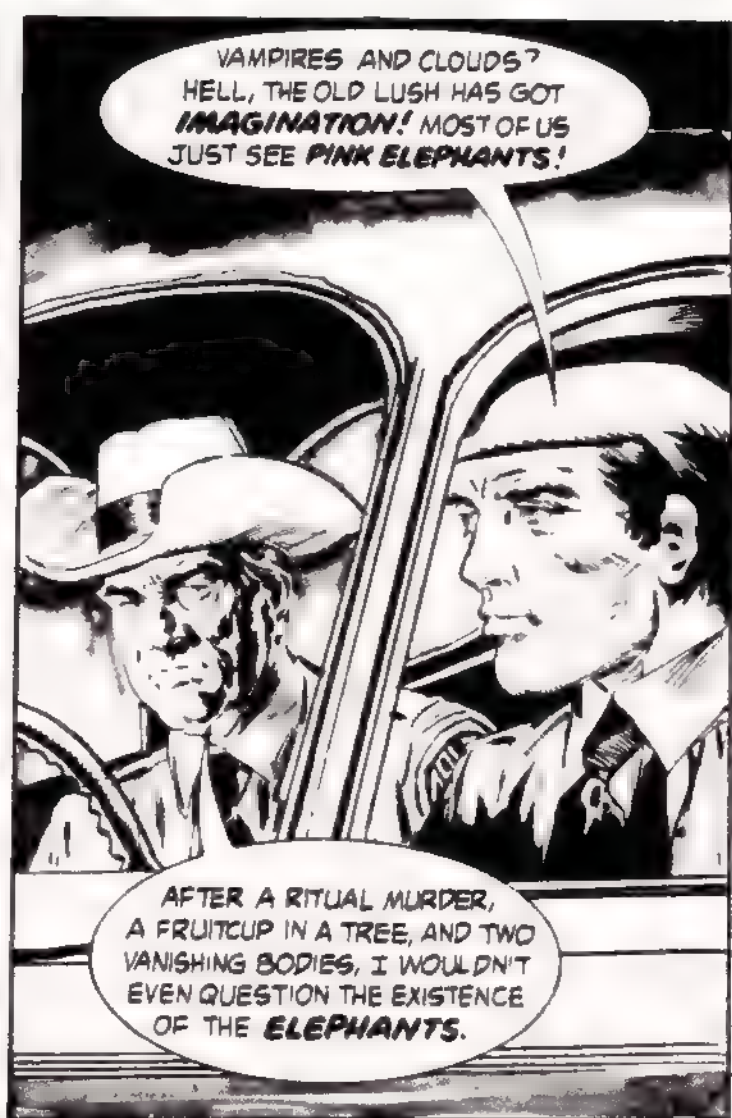
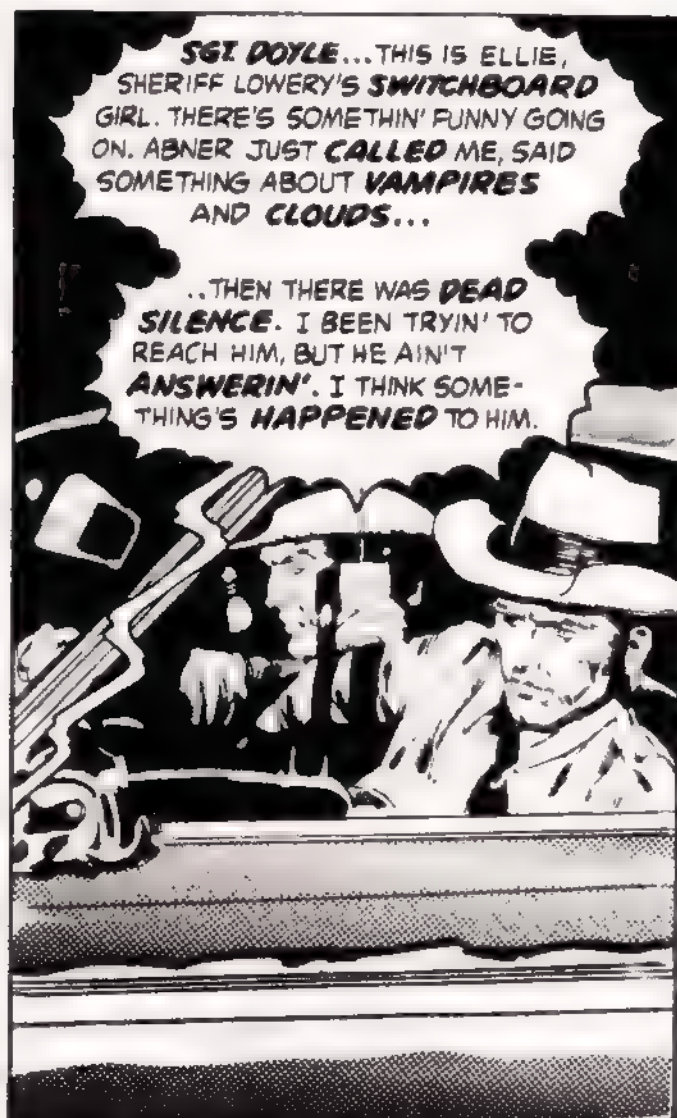
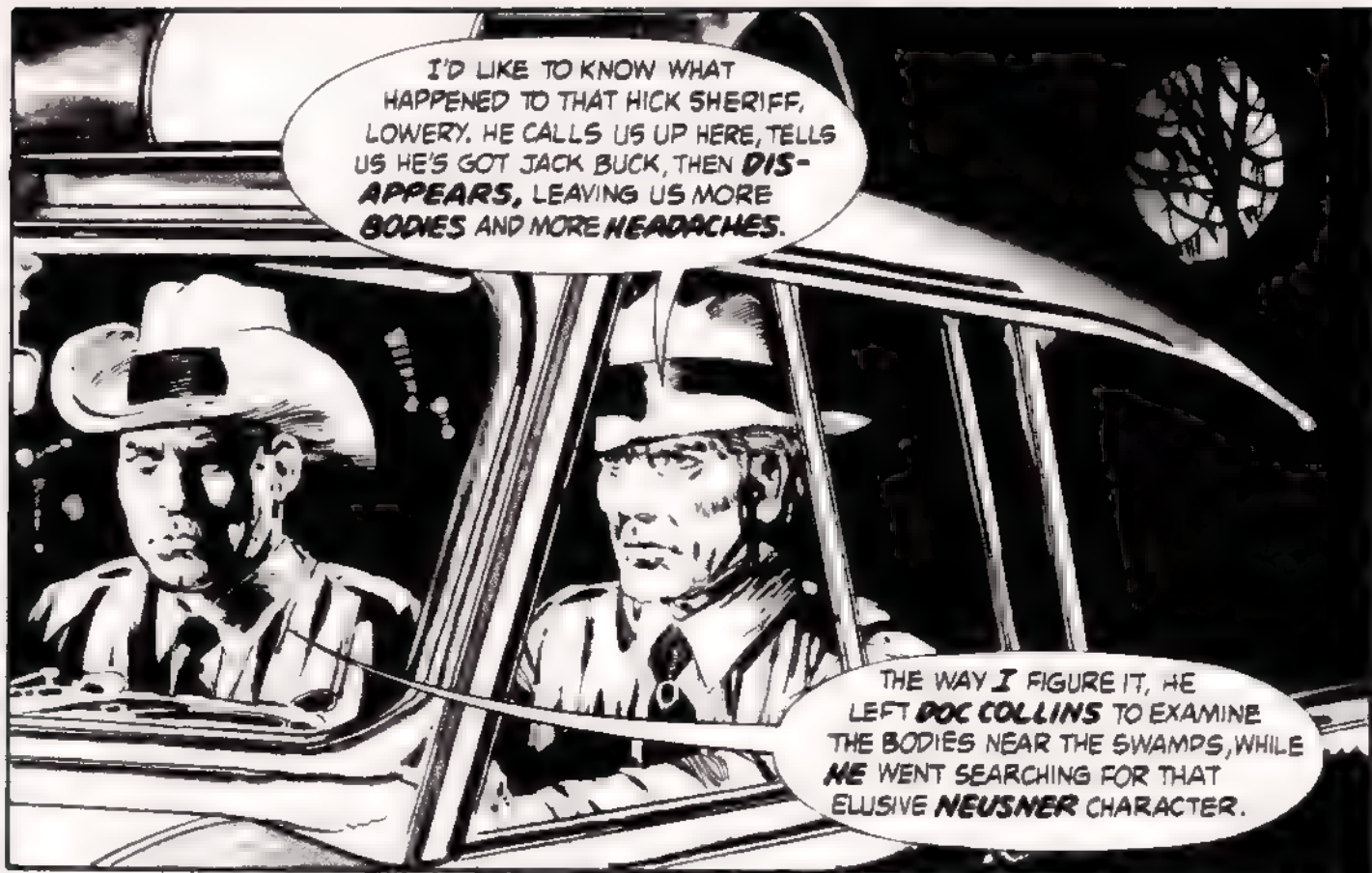


...MUST GO THERE...





# SGT. LES DOYLE





# THE OMNIFICIENT NARRATOR

SHE AWAKENS SLOWLY, STRETCHES, AND YAWNS. PIECES OF STALE HAY HAVE LODGED THEMSELVES IN HER **COSTUME**, AND IRRITATE HER **SKIN**.

IF ONLY I WAS **RIP VAN WINKLE**, THINGS MIGHT LOOK DIFFERENT TO ME NOW. AS IT IS, NOTHING'S CHANGED.

VOICES! SOMEONE'S OUTSIDE...!



SHE SEES THEM...AND ALL HER FEARS, HER REHEARSED APOLOGIES AND RATIONALIZATIONS ARE SWEEPED AWAY. WHAT REMAINS IS **RAW EMOTION**.

ADAM! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ADAM? PENDY, IS HE ALL RIGHT?

VAMPIRELLA? HOW DID YOU--?



I THINK WHATEVER EFFECTS THE **BLOOD SUBSTITUTE** HAD ON HER **MIND** HAVE PASSED, CONRAD. SHE SEEMS TO BE **HERSELF** AGAIN!

HOW CAN YOU BE SURE WHICH SELF IS THE **REAL SELF**?



SUDDENLY...

DARK HAired WOMAN SO BEAUTIFUL MUST DIE DIE DIE

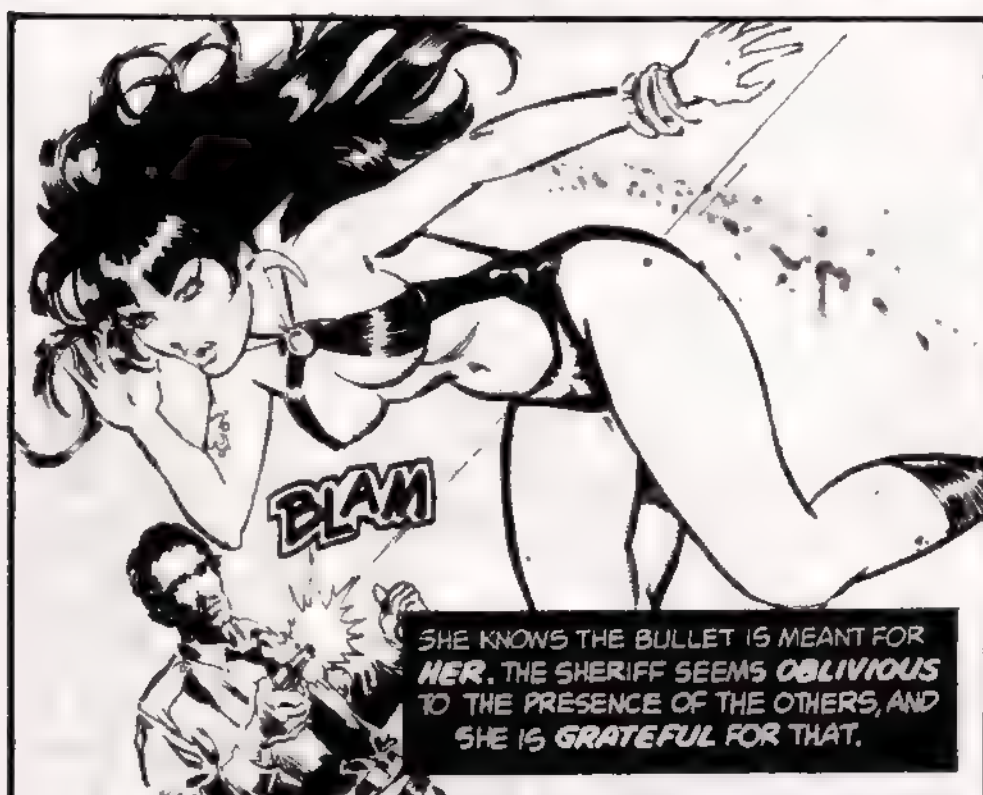
THE SHERIFF! BUT WHAT'S **WRONG** WITH HIM? HE LOOKS LIKE A REFUGEE FROM THE **TWILIGHT ZONE**!

THE BLOOD BALL'S EVIL **ESSENCE** MUST HAVE FOUND A **HOST BODY** IN HIM!



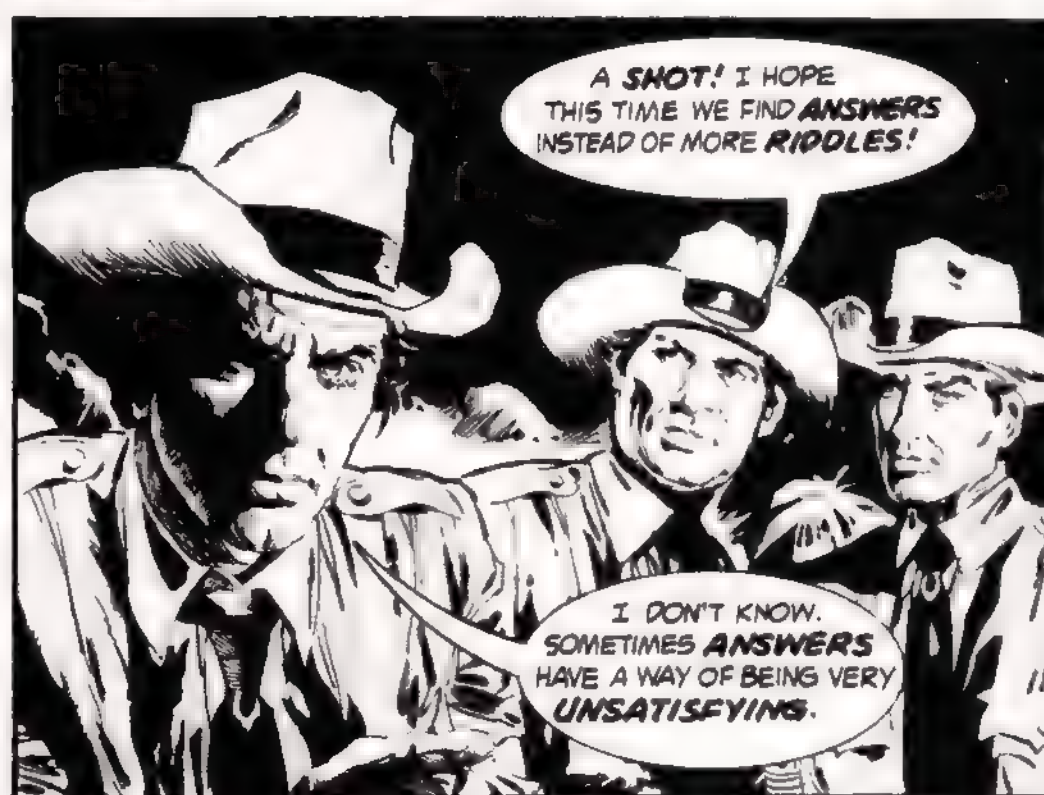
**BLAM**

SHE KNOWS THE BULLET IS MEANT FOR **HER**. THE SHERIFF SEEMS **OBLIVIOUS** TO THE PRESENCE OF THE OTHERS, AND SHE IS **GRATEFUL** FOR THAT.



A **SHOT**! I HOPE THIS TIME WE FIND **ANSWERS** INSTEAD OF MORE **RIDDLES**!

I DON'T KNOW. SOMETIMES **ANSWERS** HAVE A WAY OF BEING VERY **UNSATISFYING**.





WITHIN THE FARMHOUSE, TWO THINGS ARE DRAWN BY THE GUNFIRE: ATTENTION AND FALSE CONCLUSIONS.

STATE TROOPERS SURROUNDING US! HOW THE HELL DID THEY EVER FIND US?

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

NOTHING! OUR RECENTLY RESTORED SURROGATES WILL DO IT FOR US!

VAMPIRELLA TENSES, CONSIDERS CHANGING FORM, BUT KNOWS INSTINCTIVELY THERE IS NO TIME. SHE CURSES AND PRAYS IN THE SAME BREATH.

MUST BE PUNISHED  
MUST DIE EVIL  
COMMANDS

LOWERY, YOU GONE CRAZY? THEY'RE NOT ARMED! YOU PULL THAT TRIGGER AND YOU'RE A CANDIDATE FOR DEATH ROW!



QUIETLY, VAMPIRELLA ESCORTS ADAM TO THE BARN, AWAY FROM THE MADNESS OF THE MOMENT, LEAVING THE OTHERS TO EXPLAIN THE UNEXPLAINABLE.

DEAD. BUT WHAT IN THE NAME OF SANITY MADE HIM FIRE ON US?

SOMETHING SO UNSPEAKABLY EVIL IT DEFIES IMAGINATION. WHAT YOU WITNESSED WAS A CASE OF DEMONIC POSSESSION! IT-- WAIT, LOOK!



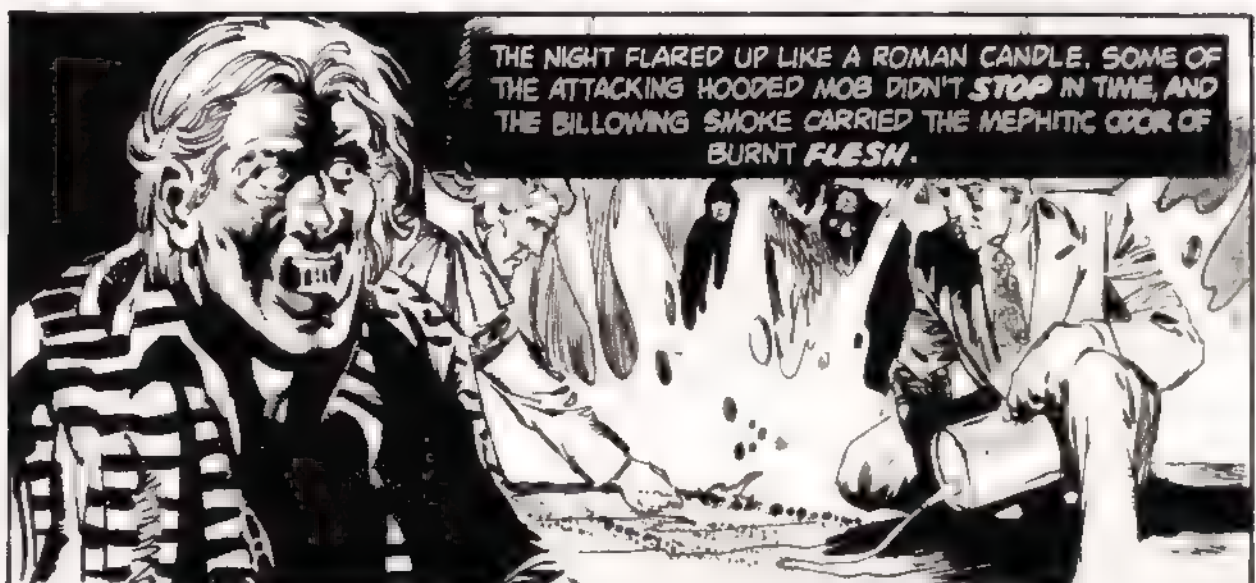
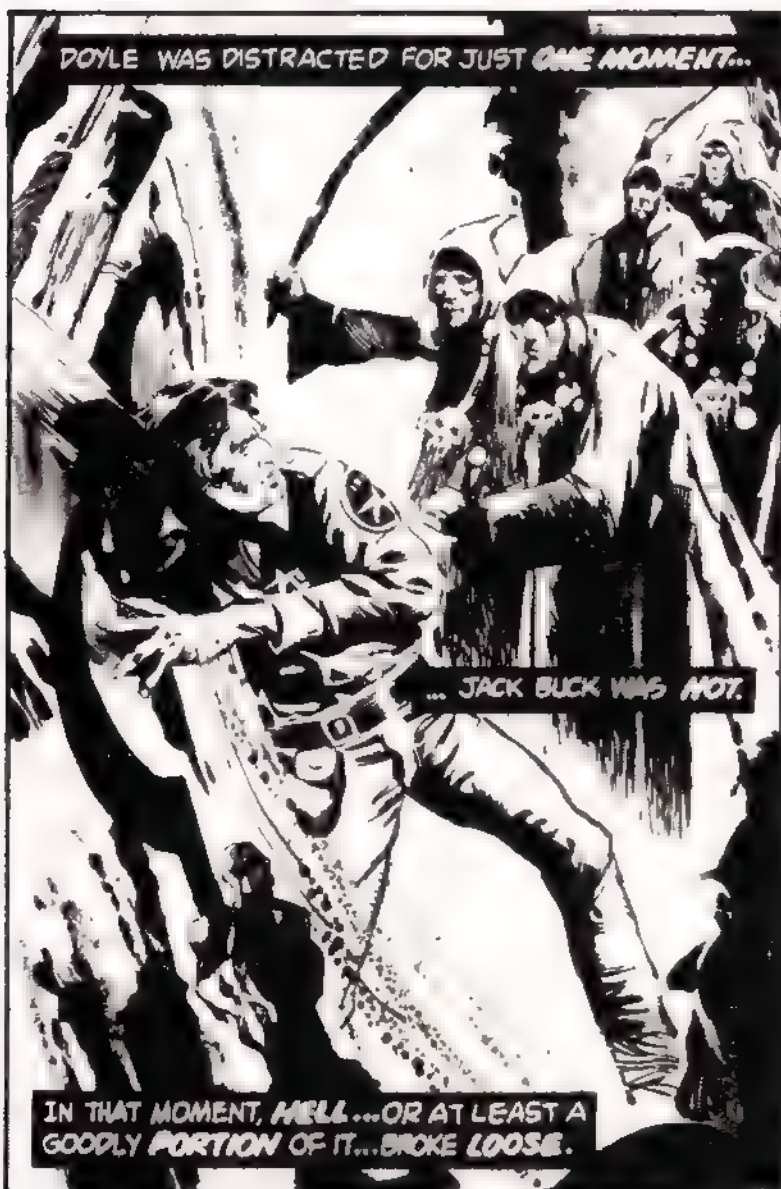
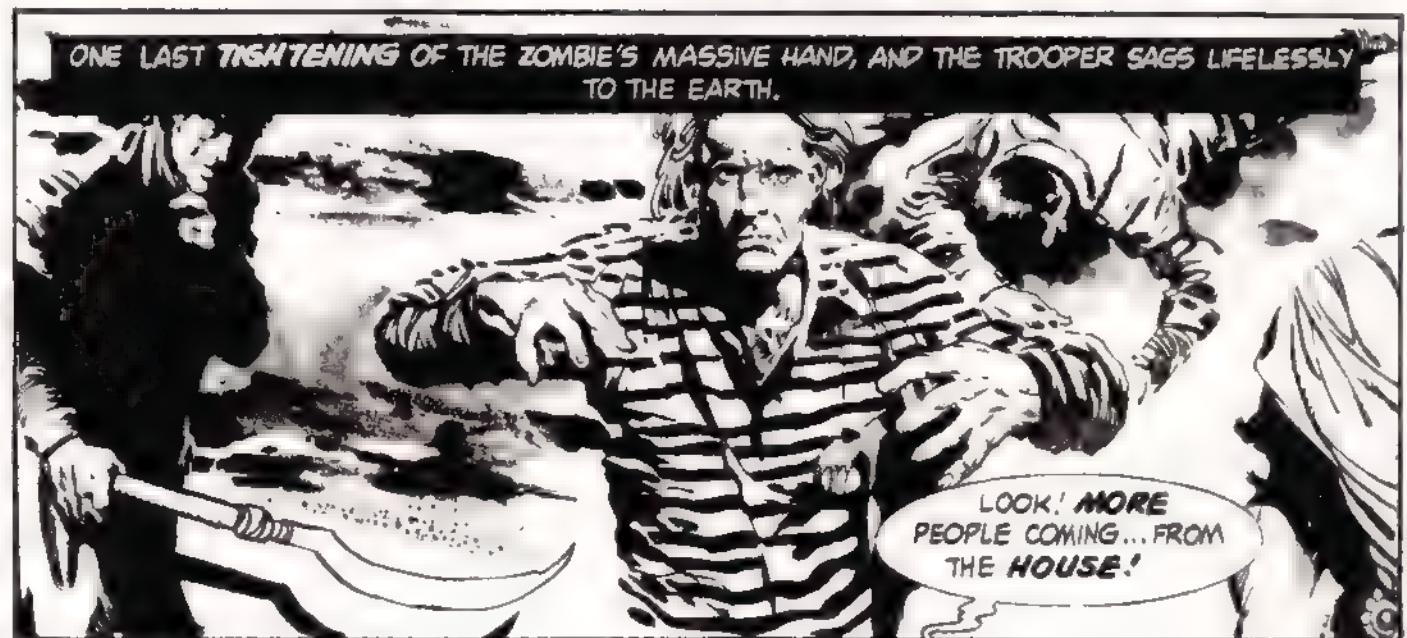
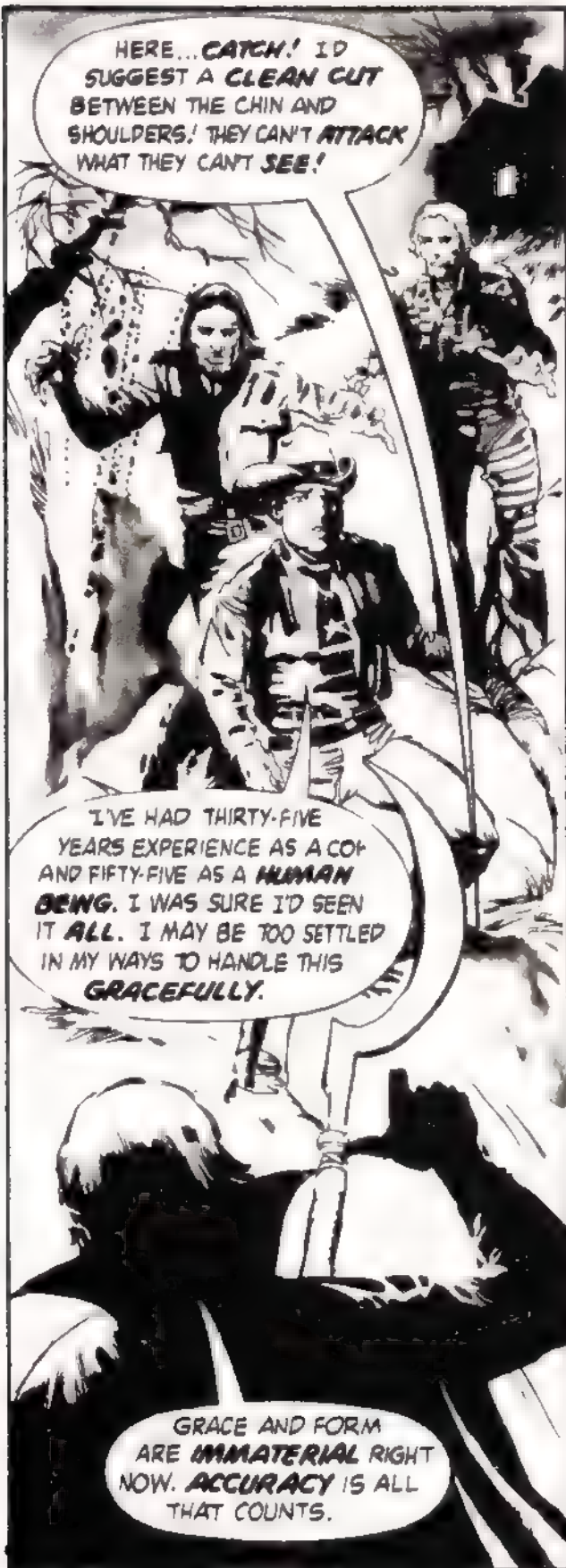
JACK BUCK! AND I BET MY BADGE THE GUY BESIDE HIM IS THE OTHER CORPSE WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR!

I MIGHT AS WELL BE SHOOTING AT THE **STATUE OF LIBERTY!** WORSE, I DON'T EVEN HAVE AN ALTERNATE **PLAN.** EVERYTHING IS BASED ON FAMILIAR **ACTION/CONSEQUENCE** PATTERNS OF BEHAVIOR, BUT NOW THOSE PATTERNS HAVE BROKEN DOWN ...AND I'M **SCREWED.**

BLAM  
BLAM

DO YOU ALWAYS TALK THAT MUCH IN A CRISIS?







STILL OTHERS WENT INTO THE CONFLAGRATION BY DESIGN.

I RECOGNIZE THE COSTUMES; THEY BELONG TO CHAOS! UNDOUBTEDLY, THEY'RE THE ONES BEHIND DOC COLLINS MURDER!

SUDDENLY...

SOUNDS LIKE GUNFIRE ON THE OTHER SIDE! BUT I CAN'T BE SURE... THE FLAMES ARE TOO HIGH!

BLAM

BLAM

BDAM

THEY WAIT, LISTENING FOR OTHER SIGNS ABOVE THE ROAR OF THE HOLOCAUST. FINALLY THERE COMES NOT SOUND, BUT SENSATION... A BLESSED WETNESS.

WATER! SOMEONE'S TRYING TO PUT OUT THE FIRE!

THE FLAMES SIZZLED AND PROTESTED FOR THE BETTER PART OF A QUARTER-HOUR BUT AT LAST THEY YIELDED TO THE BARRAGE OF WATER.

A GIRL!

WHAT HAPPENED?

I-I COULDN'T BEAR IT ANYMORE. A-ANETTE DEAD... BODIES RE-BORN... AND THEN THEY... CHAOS... WERE READY TO COMMIT MASS SLAUGHTER. THEY WERE SO VILE, SO EVIL... I H-HAD TO DO SOMETHING TO S-STOP THE MADNESS!

THERE WAS A SHOTGUN IN THE HOUSE. I GOT ALL THE ONES THE FIRE SPARED.

WHAT ABOUT US?

GO HOME, OR WHEREVER YOU WANT TO GO. THERE'S NOTHING I COULD CHARGE YOU WITH. CHAOS KILLED COLLINS; AND AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, BUCK AND THE OTHER GUY DIED RIGHT HERE... I KILLED THEM.





THE ONLY THING WE HAD AGAINST YOU WAS ABNER LOWERY'S WORD. EVEN IF HE WERE STILL ALIVE, HIS TESTIMONY WOULDN'T BE WORTH MUCH.

BESIDES, YOU SAVED MY LIFE. FOR THAT, I OWE YOU.



NO, THIS WAS NOT A GOOD NIGHT FOR SURVIVORS. THE FINAL TALLY WAS SIXTEEN DEAD... BUT THE NIGHT WAS NO LONGER YOUNG.

HOW IS HE--?

BETTER. I CRIED, I PRAYED, I PATCHED UP HIS WOUNDS AS BEST I COULD, THEN I TOOK HIS HAND AND TOLD HIM I LOVED HIM.

HE BELIEVED ME. THEN HE TOOK MY HAND WHILE I CRIED.

# EPILOGUE



NEW YORK CITY HADN'T CHANGED MUCH IN THE THREE WEEKS THEY'D BEEN AWAY. TAXI DRIVERS, MUGGERS, AND STREET-WALKERS WENT ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS, WHILE EVERYONE ELSE ~~OWERS~~ **OWERS** TO THEM.

SOME THINGS, AT LEAST, WERE PREDICTABLE.



I AM CERTAIN THIS NEW FORMULA WILL WORK... WITHOUT PRODUCING THE DRASTIC SIDE EFFECTS OF THE LAST ONE.

I CAN'T FIND THE WORDS TO THANK YOU... FOR EVERYTHING. MOST OF ALL FOR BELIEVING IN ME.



WE ALL KNEW THE DANGER WHEN WE FIRST BROUGHT YOU TO ROSTAING. IF ANYTHING HAD GONE WRONG, WE ALL HAD TO SHARE THE BLAME.

I COULDN'T CONDEMN YOU WITHOUT CONDEMNING MYSELF FOR LETTING IT HAPPEN.



OUTSIDE, THE SUN SHONE LIKE A GOLDEN BEACON, TINTING EVERYTHING BELOW A HEALTHY, VIBRANT YELLOW. VAMPIRELLA COULDN'T REMEMBER A BRIGHTER DAY... NOR A HAPPIER ONE.

END



# MONSTER SHIRTS!

## Bright Full Color Tops For You!



#2736-S, size 10-boys small, short sleeves \$6.50  
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You've seen them on the covers of your favorite fear magazines! You've pasted them on your walls! Now wear them! These full color shirts capture all of the excitement, terror and spirit of the original works of art! No, they're not decals which will fade or wash out but machine washable shirts made of durable polyester and cotton material with the famous Wear-Dated® warranty by Monsanto! Quality! You can choose the deadly CREEPY horseman galloping on a sweat glistening, chestnut colored stallion with the rider's blood-red cape flapping in the mist swirling wind. Suddenly, a tentacled monster rips through

the earth's dried crust, entangling them both! Or perhaps a graveyard scene is more to your taste. In this EERIE classic a corpse decides to take revenge on a pair of grave robbers who dared to disturb his tranquil rest in the cold ground! Thirdly, we have our FAMOUS MONSTER shirt depicting the contents of a freshly opened coffin. As you see, however, there is nothing "fresh" inside. The fetid, rotting monstrosity reached out for...? Besides the colorful chest print, the sleeves, neck and back are in vivid, washable, matching color. Be sure to order title, number, size and if you want long or short sleeves.

## VAMPIRELLA PLASTIC HOBBY KIT

**16 SNAP-TOGETHER PLASTIC PARTS! MOVEABLE ARMS & LEGS!**

Here she is! Brought sweeping out of the night, flying directly at your neck exclusively by Warren Publishing! Surely the collector's item of the decade! Our own VAMPIRELLA, star of her own magazine, debutante of Draculon, vamp of the veins and artisan of the arteries! In a limited-supply collector's plastic hobby kit that's becoming more rare by the hour! And the hour is bewitching, as vivacious VAMPIRELLA stands assembled before you on your hobby shelf! She has this special added attraction: moveable arms and legs, and a pet black bat to perch on her shoulder! She's a pert, pretty miss, and stands over 5" tall! She's definitely a unique buy, and a certain contrast to your other hobby kits. VAMPIRELLA! — Princess of Draculon! VAMPIRELLA! — She hobnobs with Dracula Himself! VAMPIRELLA! — She travels the world with Dr. van Helsing in search of justice for herself, and all others WHO CRAVE TO DRINK HUMAN BLOOD! Yes, she's all that and MORE! She's now a super collector's item hobby kit manufactured by YOUR POPULAR DEMAND! Don't hesitate! The supply is definitely limited! Order as many VAMPIRELLA kits as you can — NOW! #2439 VAMPIRELLA KIT \$2.00



**NO GLUE NEEDED!  
 PUT IT TOGETHER IN  
 JUST A FEW MINUTES!**

**SHE'S FANG-TASTIC!**

## PLANET OF THE APES HOME MOVIES

### PLANET OF THE APES CHARLTON HESTON

An astronaut crashes on an unknown planet populated by mute, animalistic humans and a master-race of weapons-wielding apes. He is captured, escapes and heads for the Forbidden City and discovers artifacts, among them the Statue of Liberty!

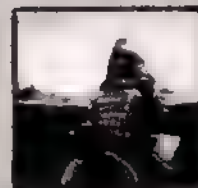
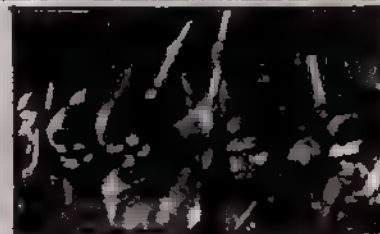
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**COLOR #22070/\$19.95**

**COLOR/SOUND**

#22089/\$24.95



### BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES

More astronauts land and are befriended by chimpanzees, Cornelius and Zira. They journey to the Forbidden Zone and discover a warlike race of horrifying mutants. Apes, humans and mutants clash in battle for atomic warheads.

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### ESCAPE FROM THE PLANET OF THE APES

Cornelius and Zira find a working spaceship, escape atomic destruction of the Ape world, journey through the same time warp that stranded the astronauts. They land on a hostile modern earth. Government forces attack and destroy them.

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### CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

Cornelius and Zira's son, Caesar, is raised by a kindly circus owner who knows his origin. He leads an insurrection against the ape-slaves' human owners. Los Angeles is destroyed in battle.

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### BATTLE FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES

Caesar becomes a benevolent leader. Curiosity prompts him to search the Forbidden City for tapes of his parents. He is discovered by mutants who attack the apes' city amid a gorilla insurrection.

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# BOWSER

GETTIN' HARD  
T' **FIND** STRAYS IN  
THIS NEIGHBORHOOD,  
BOWSER. HOPE YA  
DON'T MIND **COLD**  
MEAT ONCE IN  
A WHILE.

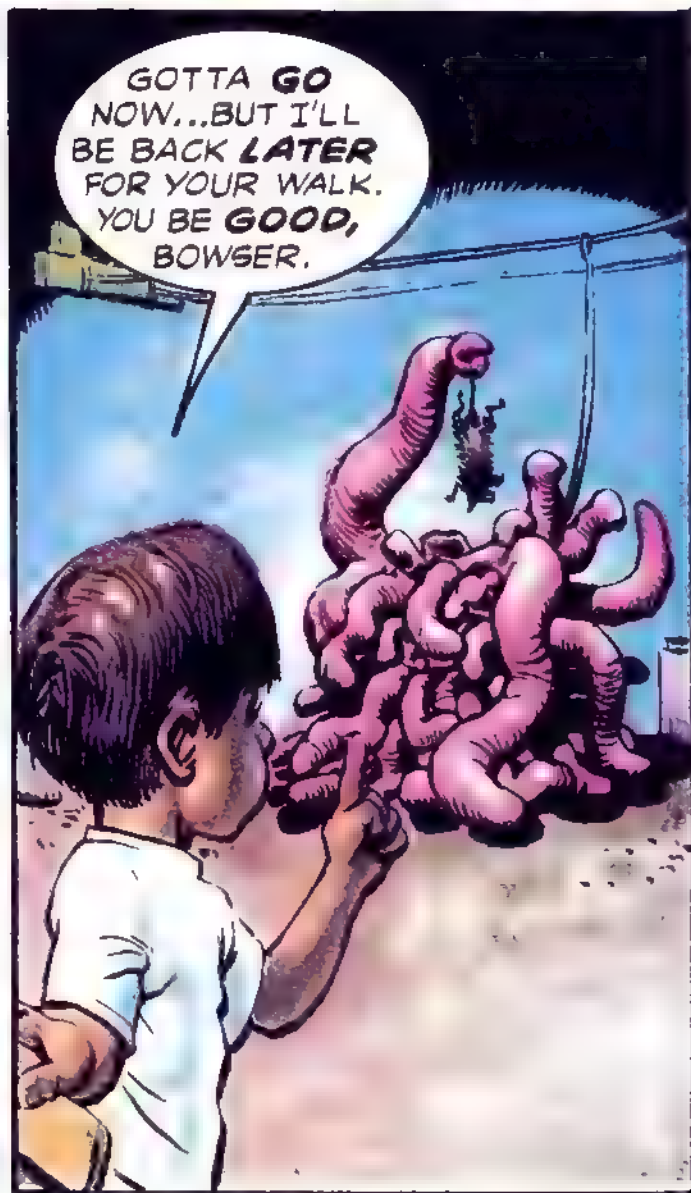
I'LL DO WHAT  
I **CAN**, BUT I AIN'T  
PROMISIN' NOTHIN'. I GOT  
**LUCKY** TONIGHT, BUT SOME-  
TIMES I LOOK FOR **HOURS**  
WITHOUT FINDIN' A  
**THING**. IT'S TAKIN' UP  
ALL MY **TIME**.

BOWSER

CRASH!



YOU'RE SURE  
HANDY T'HAVE  
**AROUND** SOME-  
TIMES, BOWSER.

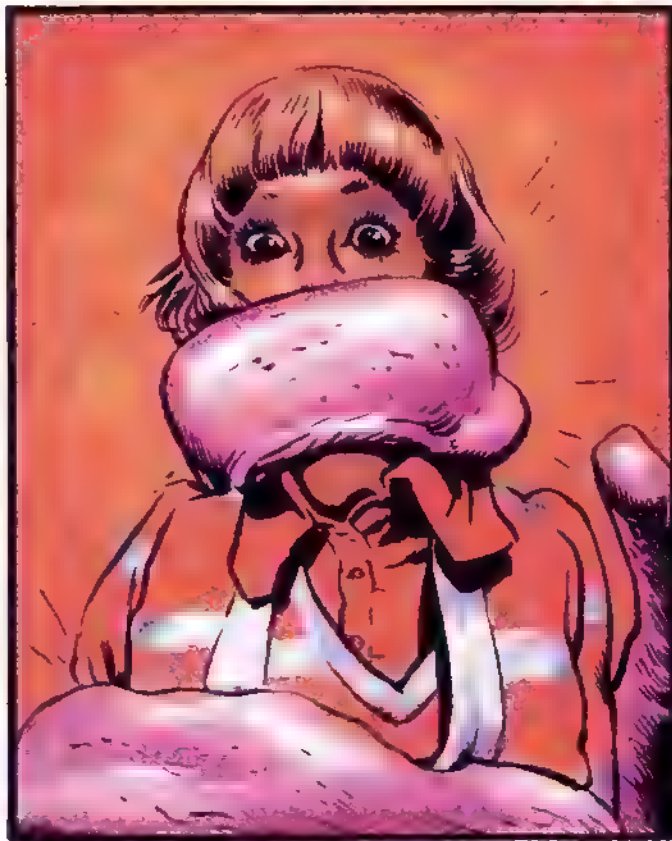
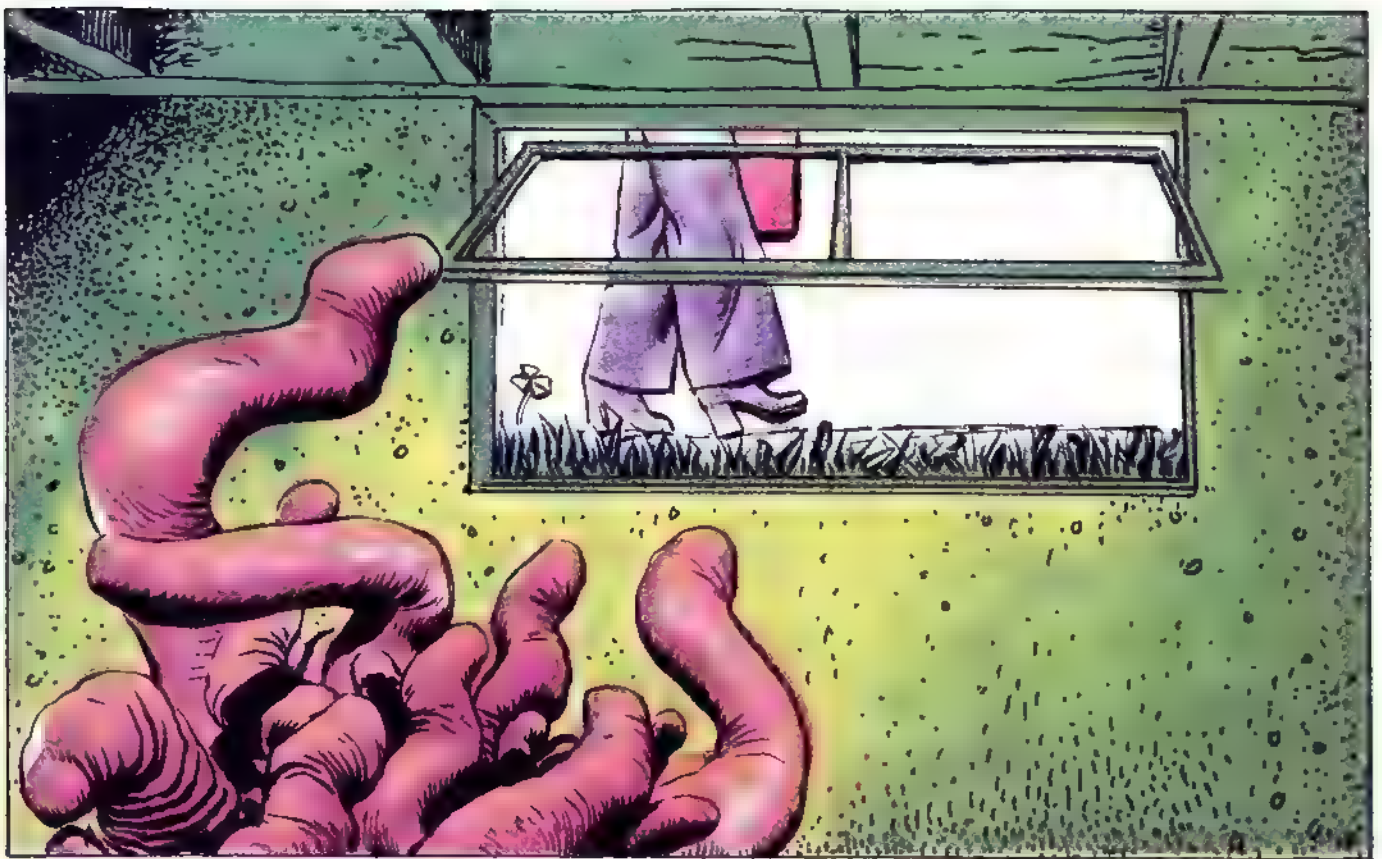
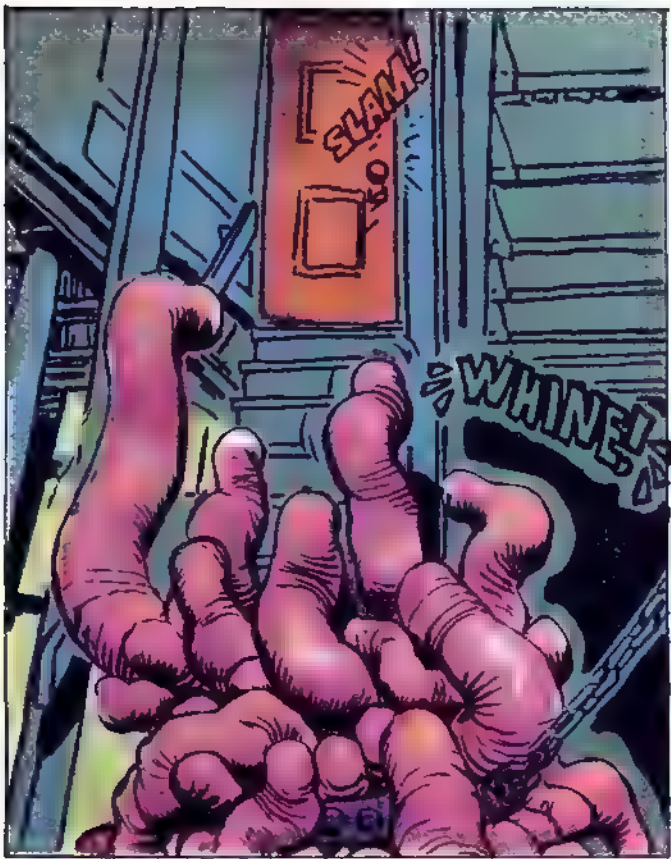


GOTTA GO  
NOW...BUT I'LL  
BE BACK **LATER**  
FOR YOUR WALK.  
YOU BE **GOOD**,  
BOWSER.

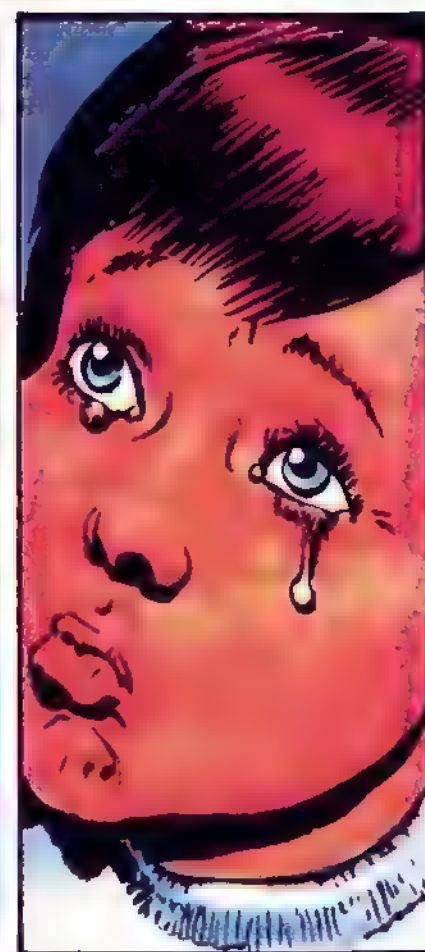
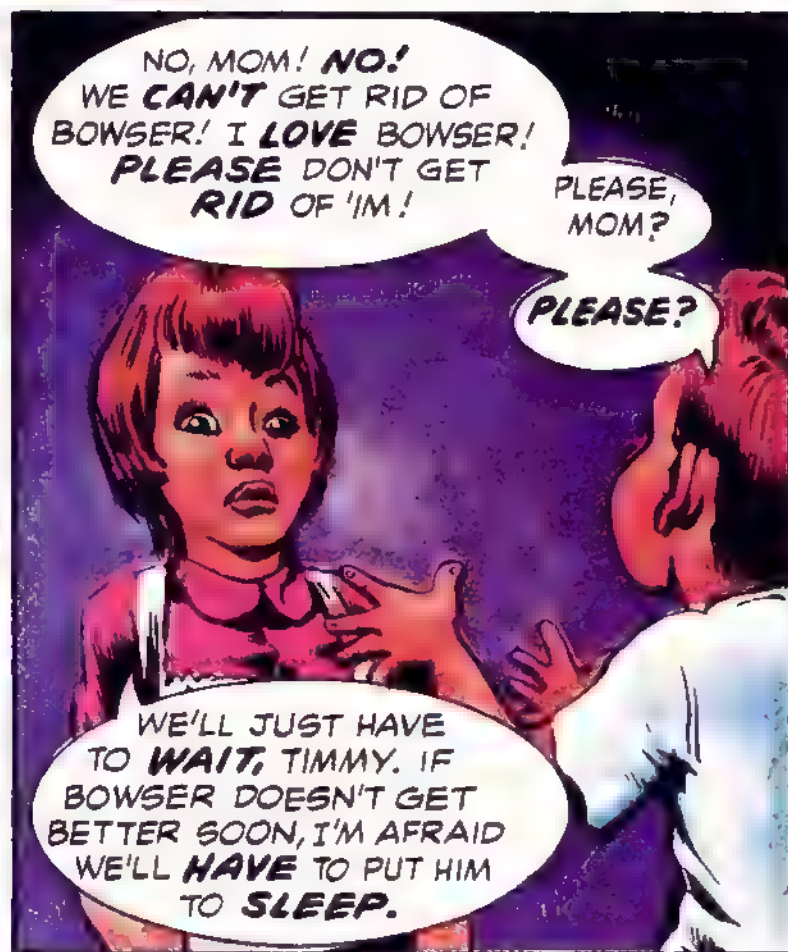
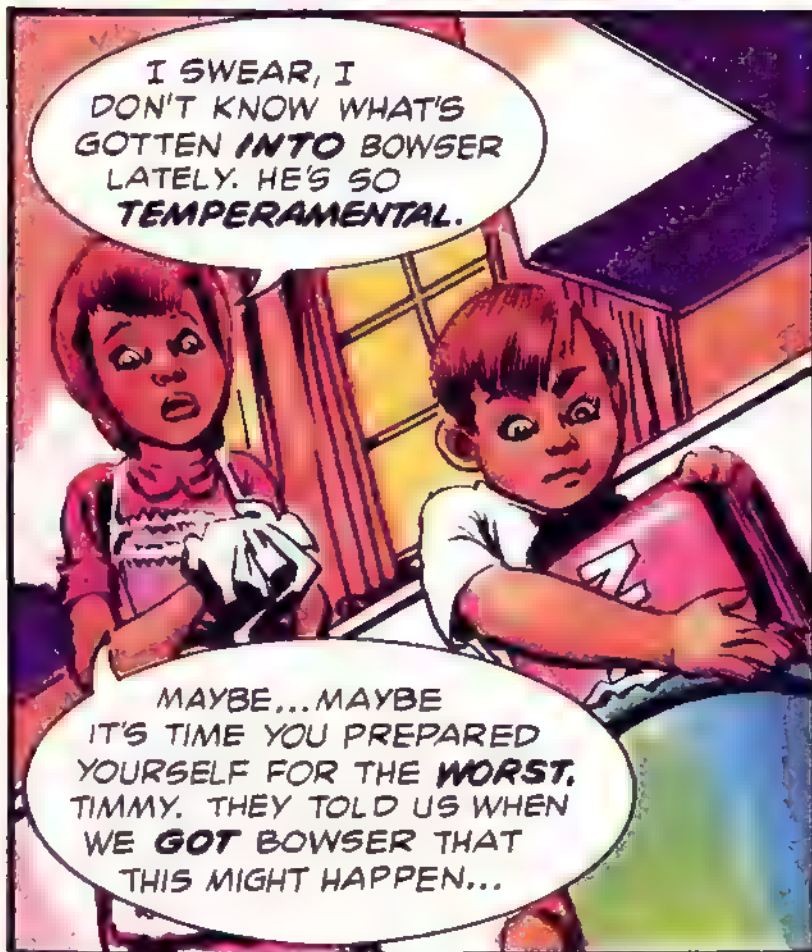














WHY DO WE  
HAVE TO WALK  
BOWSER AT *NIGHT*,  
DAD? ALL THE *OTHER*  
KIDS WALK THEIR  
PETS DURING THE  
*DAY*.

YOU HAVE TO  
REMEMBER, TIM, THAT  
BOWSER IS A VERY *SPECIAL*  
PET. A LOT OF PEOPLE  
WOULDN'T *UNDERSTAND*.

THEY'D WANT  
TO LOCK BOWSER UP,  
OR EVEN *KILL* HIM, JUST  
BECAUSE HE'S DIFFERENT.  
WE HAVE TO WALK HIM  
AT NIGHT SO NOBODY  
*SEES*.

PEOPLE ARE  
*STUPID!* BOWSER'S  
MY *FRIEND!* HE'S  
THE BEST FRIEND I  
EVER *HAD!*

I KNOW, SON, I  
*KNOW*. BUT LATELY  
BOWSER *HAS* GOTTEN...  
*UNMANAGEABLE!*

I'M AFRAID  
THAT IF HE ACTS  
UP *AGAIN*, WELL,  
YOUR MOTHER AND I  
WON'T HAVE ANY *CHOICE*  
BUT TO PUT HIM *AWAY*.  
YOU *UNDERSTAND*,  
DON'T YOU,  
SON?

YEAH.  
I...I  
GUESS I  
DO.

SNIFF!  
SNIFF!

EEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

DOWN BOY,  
DOWN! LET  
HER GO!

LET  
LOOSE,  
BOWSER!  
DOWN!  
BOWSER!





THAT **DOES** IT!  
THIS PET HAS  
GOT TO  
**GO!**

**NO, DAD...!  
PLEASE!**

IT'S NO  
USE **ARGUING**.  
TIM. BOWSER'S GONE  
**TOO FAR**. WE  
HAVE TO GET  
RID OF HIM.

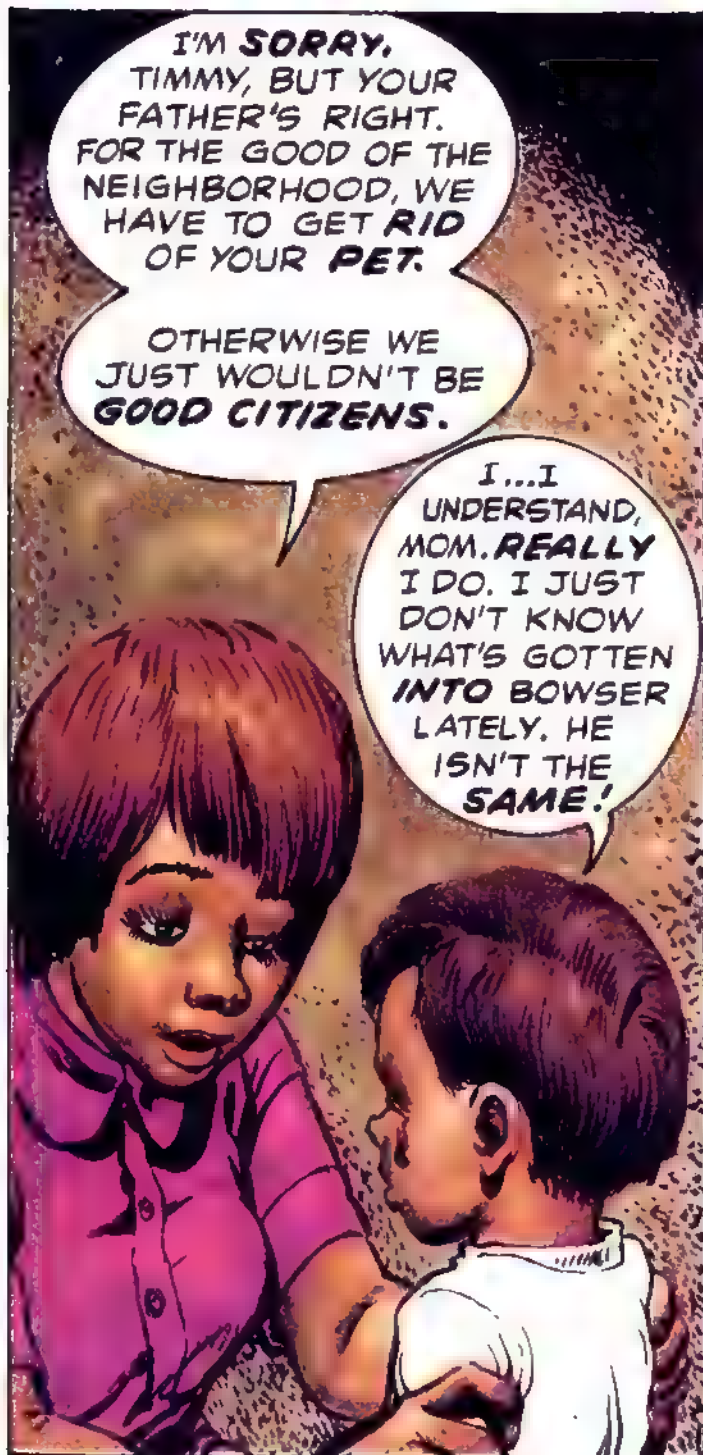


WHAT'S GOING  
**ON** HERE? WHY'S  
TIMMY **CRYING?**

IT'S **BOWSER**,  
MARTHA. HE **ATE** OLD  
MISS McGRUNDLE! HE HAS  
TO BE TAKEN **CARE** OF  
... **PERMANENTLY**.



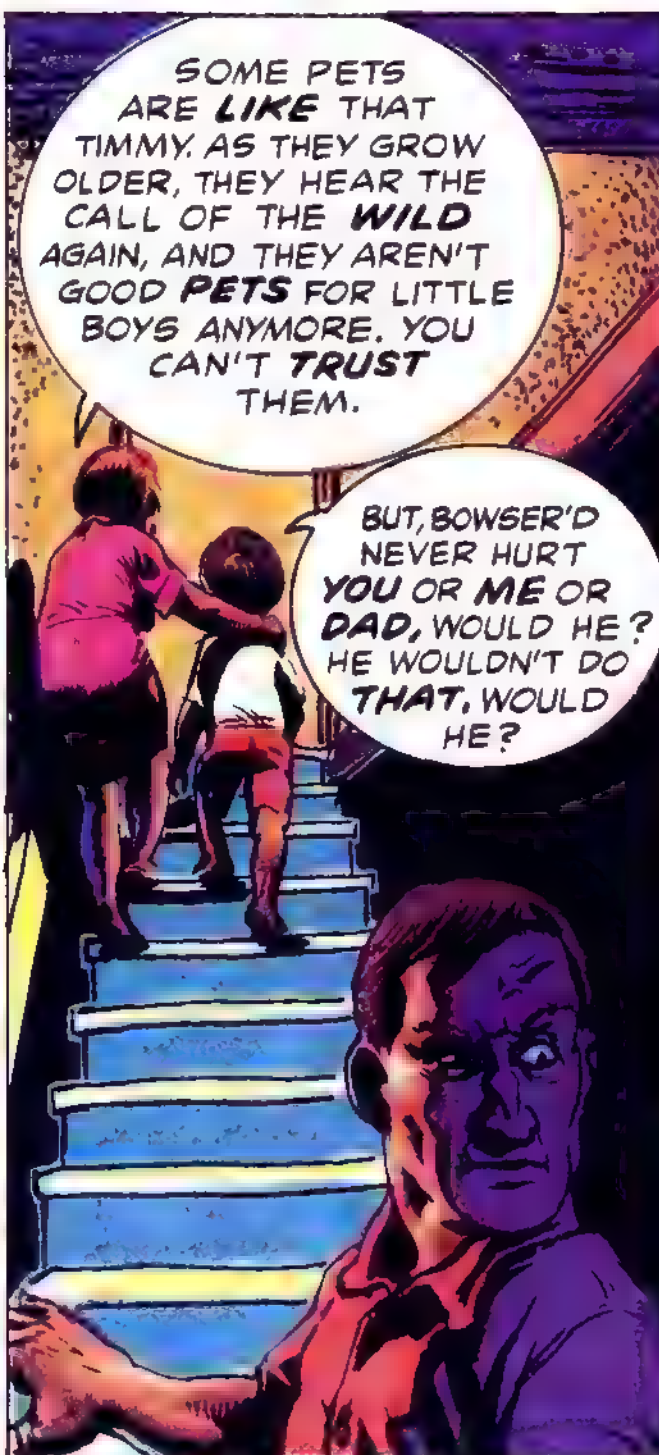
HE'LL SPEND  
TONIGHT DOWN HERE,  
AND TOMORROW MORNING  
WE'LL FIND SOME  
WAY TO **DISPOSE**  
OF HIM. IT'S THE  
**ONLY** THING  
TO DO.



I'M **SORRY**.  
TIMMY, BUT YOUR  
FATHER'S RIGHT.  
FOR THE GOOD OF THE  
NEIGHBORHOOD, WE  
HAVE TO GET **RID**  
OF YOUR **PET**.

OTHERWISE WE  
JUST WOULDN'T BE  
**GOOD CITIZENS**.

I...I  
UNDERSTAND,  
MOM. **REALLY**  
I DO. I JUST  
DON'T KNOW  
WHAT'S GOTTEN  
**INTO** BOWSER  
LATELY. HE  
ISN'T THE  
**SAME!**



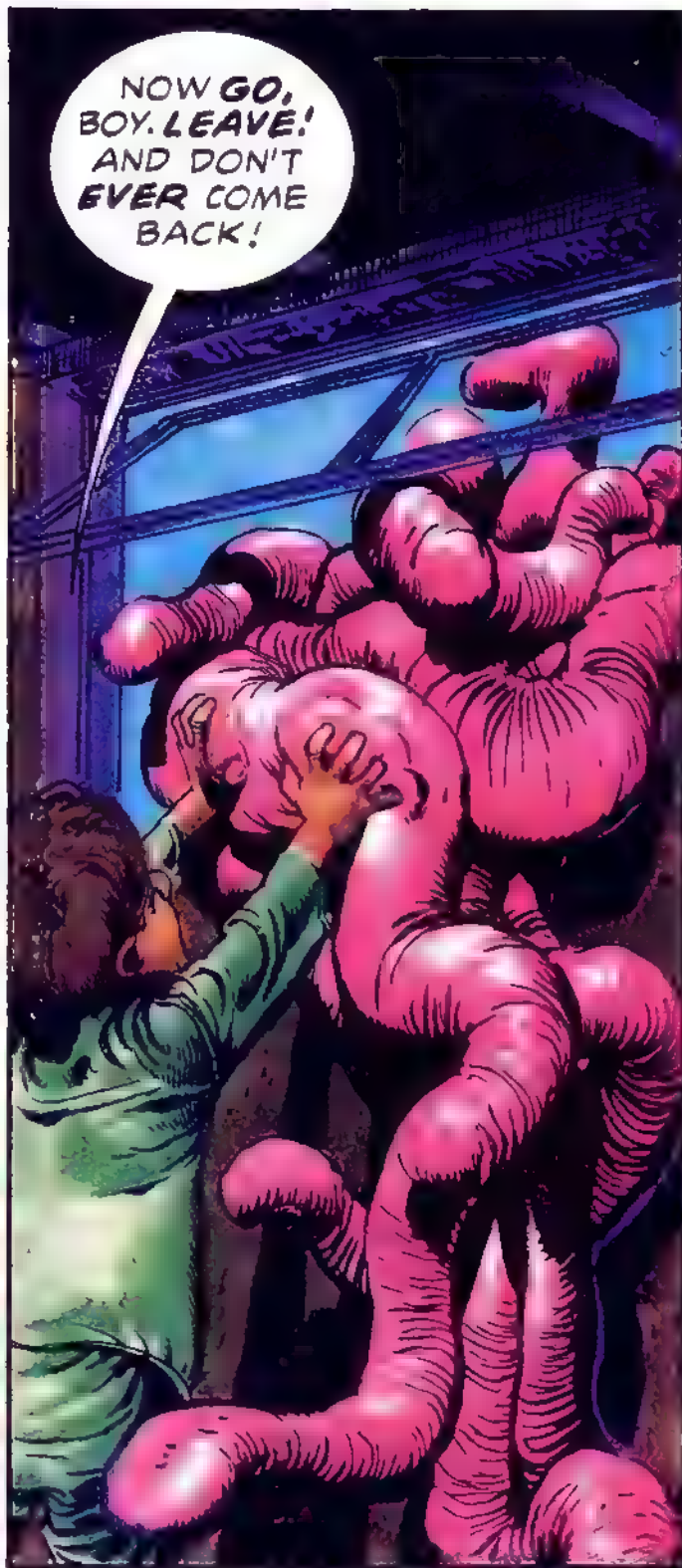
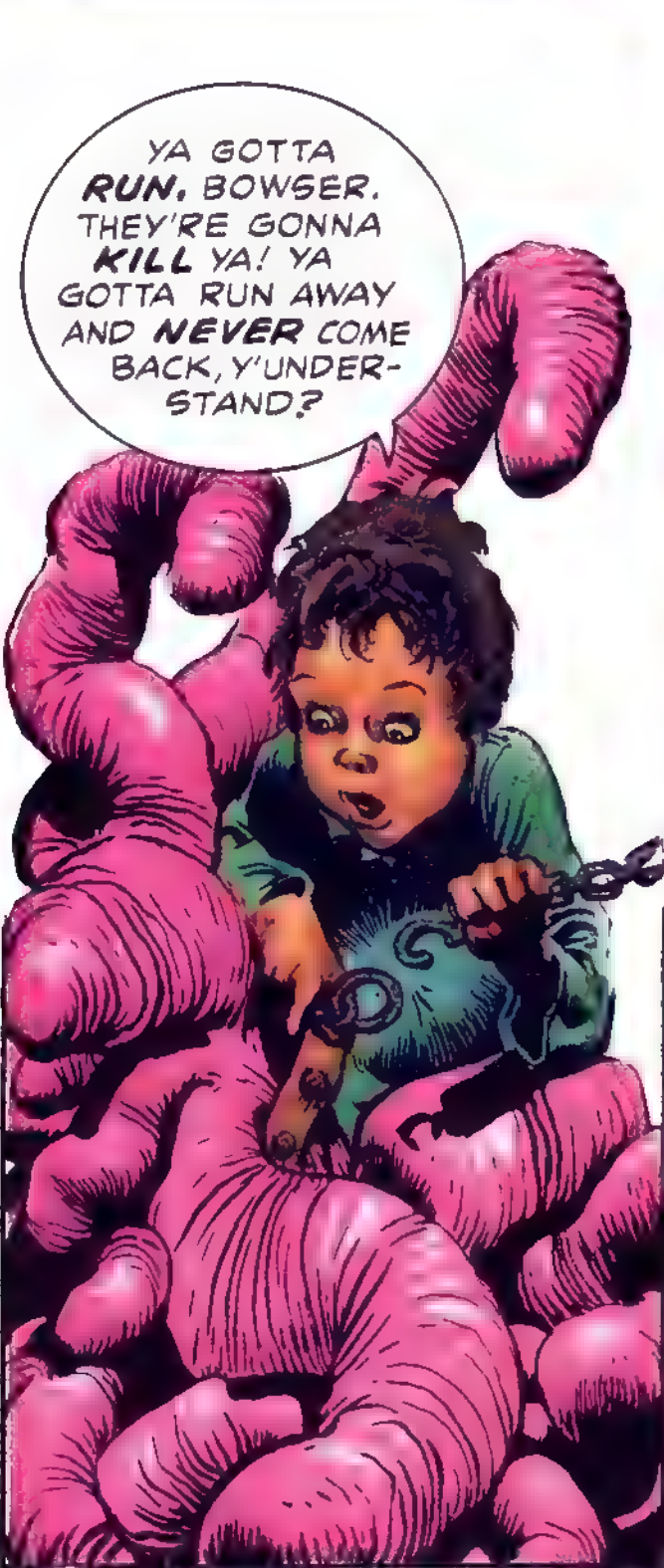
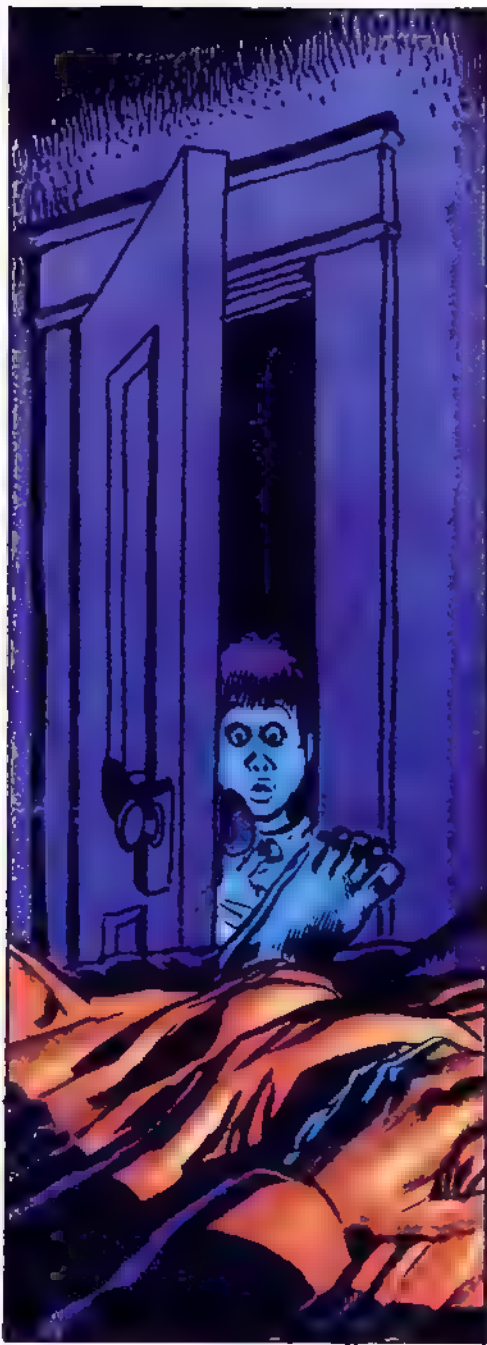
SOME PETS  
ARE **LIKE** THAT  
TIMMY. AS THEY GROW  
OLDER, THEY HEAR THE  
CALL OF THE **WILD**  
AGAIN, AND THEY AREN'T  
GOOD **PETS** FOR LITTLE  
BOYS ANYMORE. YOU  
CAN'T **TRUST**  
THEM.

BUT, BOWSER'D  
NEVER HURT  
**YOU** OR **ME** OR  
**DAD**, WOULD HE?  
HE WOULDN'T DO  
**THAT**, WOULD  
HE?



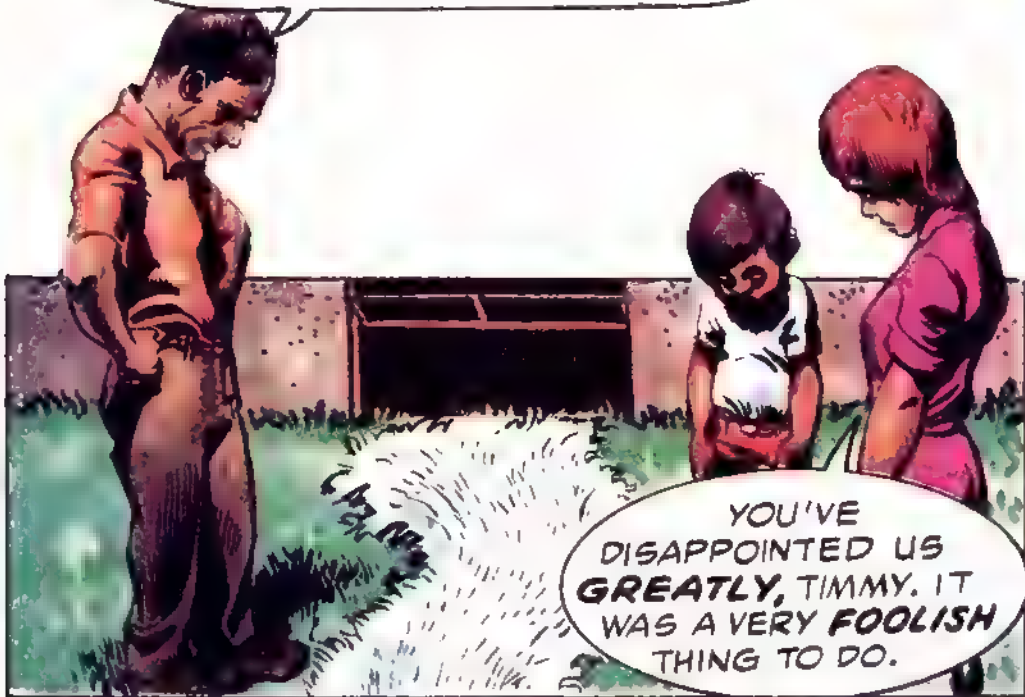
OF **COURSE**  
NOT, TIMMY.  
BOWSER WOULD  
**NEVER** HURT  
ONE OF **US**.







WELL, IT'S PRETTY **OBVIOUS** WHAT'S **HAPPENED**, TIM. AND ITS ONLY GOING TO MAKE THINGS HARDER FOR **ALL** OF US! NOW WE HAVE TO **FIND** BOWSER! AND THERE'S NO TELLING **WHAT** HE'S DONE DURING THE NIGHT.



YOU'VE DISAPPOINTED US **GREATLY**, TIMMY. IT WAS A VERY **FOOLISH** THING TO DO.

LUCKILY BOWSER IS EASY TO FOLLOW. AND I'LL EXPECT **YOU** TO LEAD US **TO** HIM, TIM.

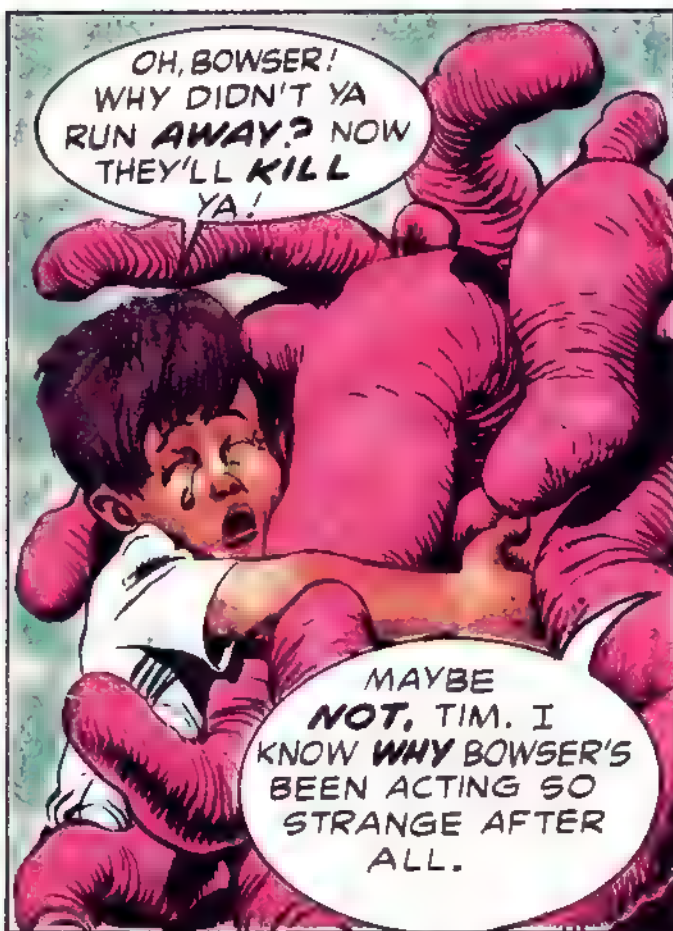
THAT WON'T BE **NECESSARY**, DEAR. BOWSER DIDN'T GO **FAR**.



**BOWSER!**



OH, BOWSER! WHY DIDN'T YA RUN **AWAY**? NOW THEY'LL **KILL** YA!

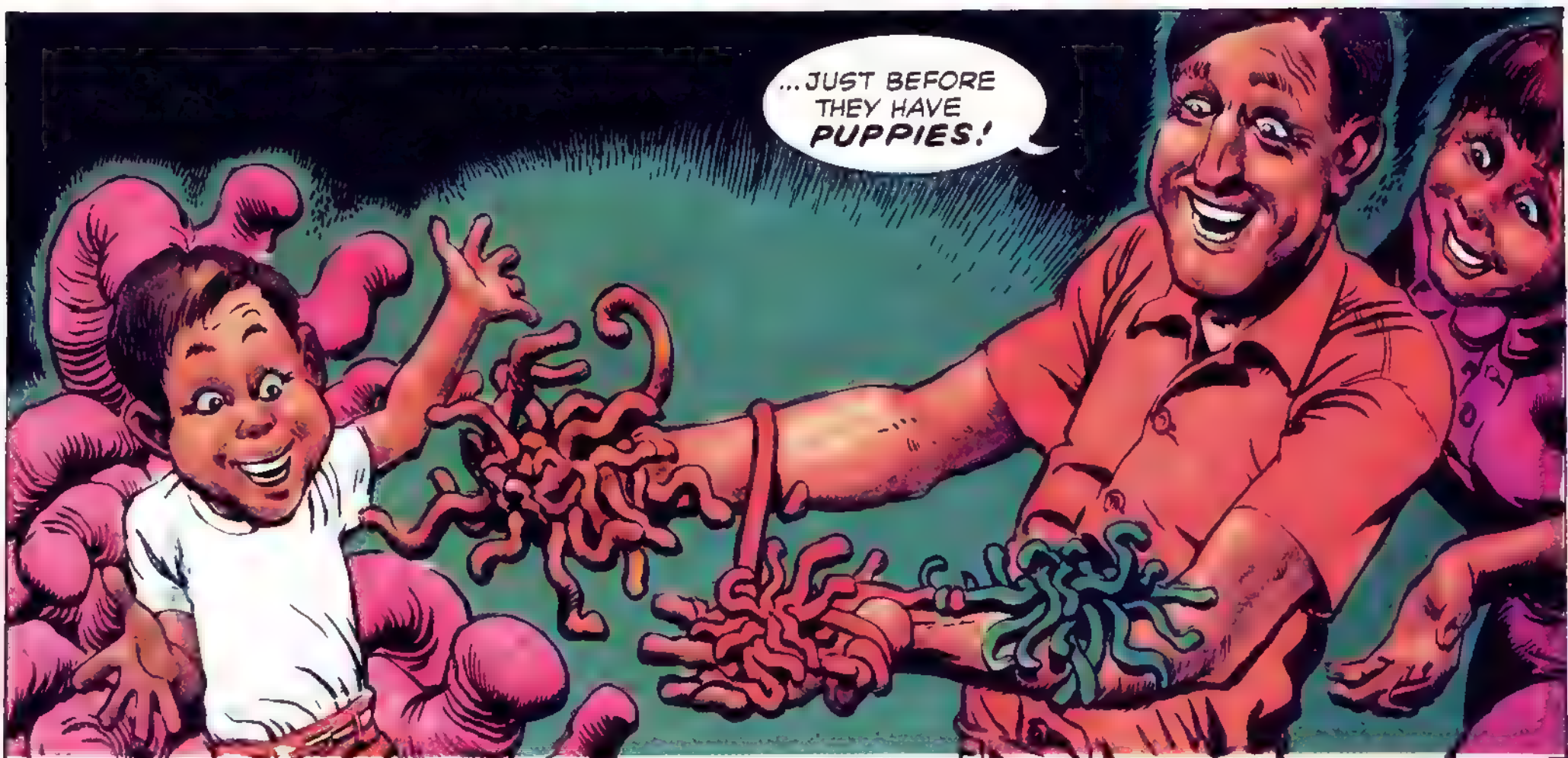


MAYBE **NOT**, TIM. I KNOW **WHY** BOWSER'S BEEN ACTING SO STRANGE AFTER ALL.

YOU SEE, PETS ARE **OFTEN** KIND OF TOUCHY...



...JUST BEFORE THEY HAVE **PUPPIES!**





# PAPERBACK NOVELS OF HORROR

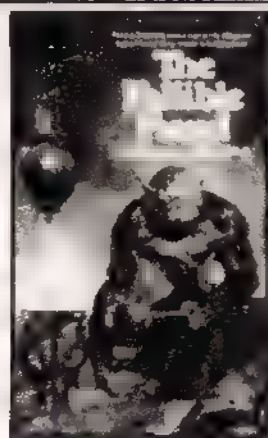
SIX EXCITING ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN



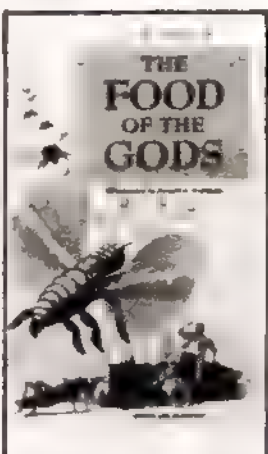
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★★★★★★★★

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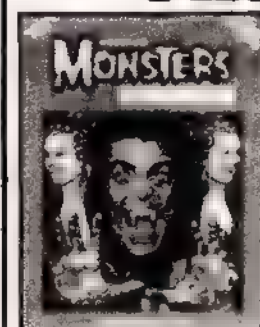
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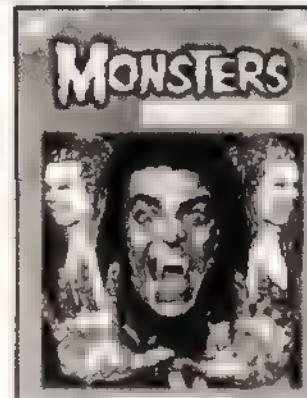
**1974 FM CONVENTION BOOK:** Tells all! Convention news. Monsters. Packed with facts, illustrations & photos. 11"x8-1/2" book with 42 pages & multi-colored covers! An FM history maker! Order #21173/\$1.50



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**WE DARE YOU TO READ  
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EXCITING  
SUPER  
SPECIAL  
PAPERBACK  
BOOK!**

## DOCTOR PHIBES



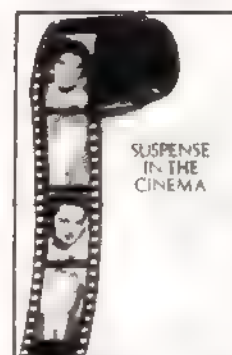
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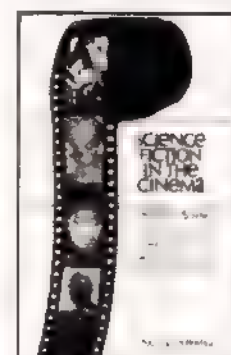
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SCIENCE FICTION IN THE CINEMA From Flash Gordon to Forbidden Planet! #21059 SCIENCE FICTION IN CINEMA \$1.25

## VAULT OF HORROR



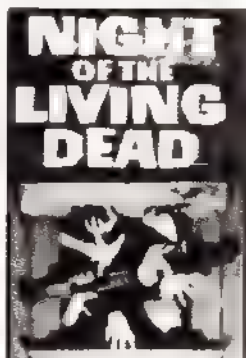
Adapted from the film sequel to Tales from the Crypt! Jack Oleck scores again, fleshing out EC comic classics! #21044 VAULT OF HORROR 95c

## TALES FROM THE CRYPT



Five tormented tales guaranteed to keep you awake long into the night! Based on the terrifying film and horror comics! #2111 TALES FROM THE CRYPT 95c

## NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD



Vicious, cannibalistic ghouls rise from the grave to menace the world. Can man survive? #21113 NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD + 16 pgs photos \$1.25

## HEIDI



A real Fan-Zine—36 page, slick p b book copy by Forrest J. Ackerman! HEIDI Saha is very groovy! See her prize winning costumes. #21053 \$2.00

## YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN



YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN The terrifyingly funny novel based on the movie by mad Mel Brooks. Wild! #21171 \$1.50

## FRANKENSTEIN



The thrilling words of the actual Mary Shelley masterpiece just as it was written in the original horror manuscript. Great! Stunning! #2101 FRANKENSTEIN 95c

## DRACULA



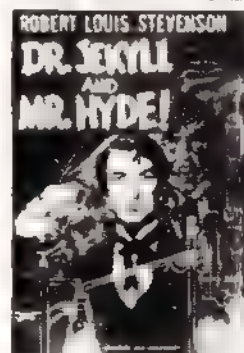
Extraordinary horror tale tells the story of victims caught in the spell of Count Dracula's awesome powers of evil! Classic! #2107 DRACULA 95c

## PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY



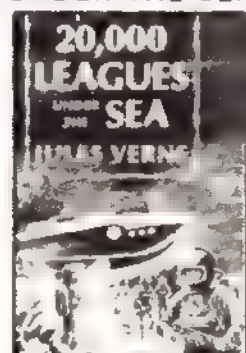
The classic horror novel by Oscar Wilde of a man who achieved immortality through a portrait which did the aging instead of he! #2104 PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY 95c

## DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE



The harrowing story of a man in conflict with himself! Robert Louis Stevenson's awesome novel of evil brought to life! Great! #2102 DR. JEKYLL & MR. HYDE 95c

## 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA



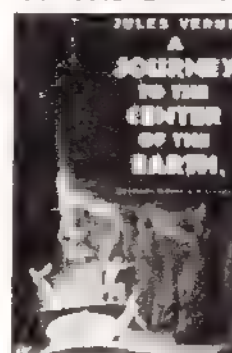
Perhaps Jules Verne's creation of the fantastic Nautilus predicted the invention of today's submarine! 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA 95c #2121

## ROUND THE MOON



The history making space journey described in the prophetic style of Jules Verne! Detailed view of future space travel. #2119 ROUND THE MOON 95c

## JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH



An ancient parchment with a secret message leads to the discovery of the entrance to the center of the world! #2117 JOURNEY TO CENTER OF EARTH 95c

## AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS



The adventures of Phineas Fogg, Esq. and his valet as they travel around the world in a race against time! #2122 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS 95c

## MASTER OF THE WORLD



Jules Verne's masterful novel of the unknown inventor of a machine capable of ruling the world! A strange classic! #2118 MASTER OF THE WORLD 95c

## GHOSTS AND THINGS



160 pages of ghost classics! Masters like Bierce, James, Saki. Eleven tales of the supernatural! GHOSTS AND THINGS Great! #2195/95c

## TARZAN ALIVE



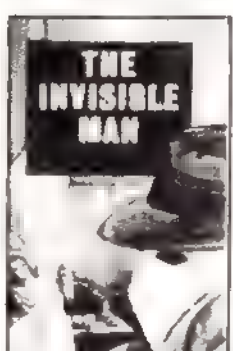
TARZAN ALIVE Well-researched volume showing how Ape Man existed! Engrossing reading, convincing. #2184 95c

## TIME MACHINE



H.G. Wells' incredible vision of the future evolution of mankind when two different races of people existed on the same world! #2120 TIME MACHINE 95c

## INVISIBLE MAN



One of the world's great suspense thrillers! Written by the one and only H.G. Wells, it was the basis for the Claude Rains movie! #2103 THE INVISIBLE MAN 95c

## WAR OF THE WORLDS



A story so real it caused a nation-wide panic when broadcast over the radio by Orson Welles! One of H.G. Wells' greatest! #2105 WAR OF THE WORLDS 95c

## TALES OF HORROR



50 short stories. All tales that stop the heart! Sci-Fi, ghosts, madness! 64 gloriously horrifying pages. TALES OF HORROR #21167 \$2.00

## FANTASTIC VOYAGE



Asimov's bold tale of medical team miniaturized & injected into dying man's artery to destroy brain clot against great odds. #21015 FANTASTIC VOYAGE 95c



## VAMPI & FAMOUS MONSTERS T-SHIRTS



Famous Monsters of Filmland & Vampirella T-shirts are here for you! All shirts are short sleeved, washable & will not fade. Carry your favorite character with you at all times. A creepy, ugly monster or beautiful Vampirella. Be the talk of the town all year 'round!

### GET READY FOR FAMOUS MONSTERS T-SHIRTS:

- #2701, ADULT SMALL-SIZE 34-36
- #2702, ADULT MEDIUM-SIZE 38-40
- #2703, BOYS' MEDIUM-SIZE 12

### SHOW OFF IN VAMPIRELLA T-SHIRTS:

- #2704, ADULT SMALL-SIZE 34-36
  - #2705, ADULT MEDIUM-SIZE 38-40
  - #2706, ADULT LARGE-SIZE 42-44
  - #2707, BOYS' MEDIUM-SIZE 12
- EACH SHIRT IS ONLY \$3.98!

## 2 NEW POSTERS



VAMPIRELLA #52  
FULL COLOR 28"x20"  
#2977/\$2.00



CREEPY #72  
FULL COLOR 28"x20"  
#2976/\$2.00

TWO NEW FANTASTIC FULL COLOR POSTERS FOR YOUR WALLS! ANOTHER WARREN PUBLISHING GREAT!

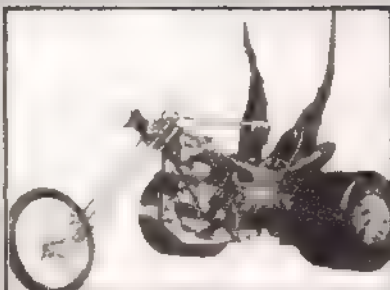
Whether your thing is flesh or metal, perhaps it's both—you're going to want these two new posters lifted from the covers of our popular magazines. Vampirella is so deathlike you'll be tempted to reach out and grab her hand. The lumbering, metallic monstrosity, clanging down the hall seems as if it will have to be bolted to your wall. Get them both now!

## MONSTER TRIKE KITS

ALL-PLASTIC HOBBY KITS WITH MULTI-COLORED PIECES AND CHROME

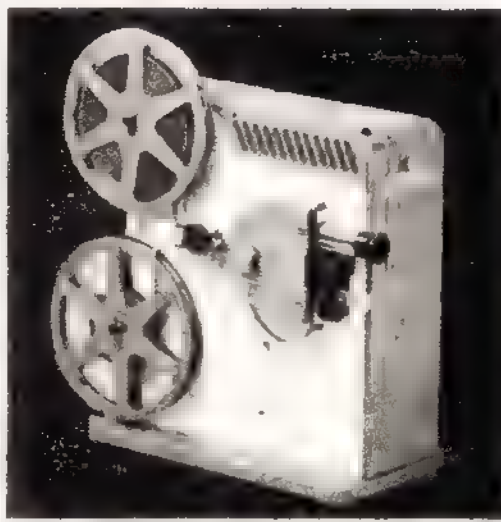


**EVIL-IRON TRIKE**—Would you believe a hearse on motorbike wheels? The Grim Guardian himself is at the wheel of this hell-borne vehicle. A challenging kit, with chrome & color parts. Instructions included. 1/8 life size! Order #2498/\$5.99



**DRAGON-FIRE TRIKE** is a serpentine set of wheels, a dragon head seat & a pair of devilish wings! Heavy tires & dozens of realistic chrome and multi-colored pieces. 1/8 life size when complete. A hobby kit well worth its price! Specify #2499/\$5.99

## MOVIE PROJECTOR! FOR REG 8 & SUPER 8 MOVIES



Compare this fine unit with others costing much more—and you'll find that this projector is well worth buying! The full size is 9" x 5" x 10" and comes in a rugged metal housing—Blower cooled and handles 200' reels. Easy threading! Rapid motor rewind. Vertical tilt device. Manual framer. 200' take up reel. 150 W lamp. Easy to clean. Have a lot of fun! #26010/\$39.95

## 12 EVIL EDGAR ALLAN POE RECORDS!

EDGAR ALLEN POE'S TALES OF

# TERROR

**TERROR** Classic tales of terror to make you shiver in your boots. Spine-tingling narrations of MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH and THE PREMATURE BURIAL. #2304, TERROR, \$2.29

EDGAR ALLEN POE'S TALES OF

# HORROR

**HORROR**—SON OF NIGHTMARE A unique tale of horror spoken in eerie tones. Hearing this story is enough to scare you out of your wits. Wow! Order #2305, HORROR, SON OF NIGHTMARE, \$2.29

EDGAR ALLEN POE'S TALES OF

# NIGHTMARE

**NIGHTMARE** A frightening narration from the stories of Edgar Allen Poe. THE PIT AND THE PENDULUM is tough on your nerves, but wait until you hear THE TELL-TALE HEART. #2303 NIGHTMARE \$2.29

EDGAR ALLEN POE'S

# HOUSE OF FRIGHT

**FRIGHT** A grim, ghostly tale that will fill you with lingering fear and fright. You'll remember THE HOUSE OF USHER (his most famous tale) with fear when you're alone! #2306, FRIGHT, \$2.29

SHORT STORIES OF EDGAR ALLAN POE

VOL 1 - THE BLACK CAT - IMP OF THE PERVERSE - THE SPHINX



**GREATEST HORROR RECORD SERIES OF ALL TIME!** Talented actors Martin Donegan and Ugo Toppo share the honors and glory of this monumental project The Recording of the Complete Stories of Edgar Allan Poe! The project is still going on, and already there are 8 masterful records in six single albums and one double album, each read with skill, precision, and a sure sense of nerve-numbing terror. Each reading is so well done, that the horrible word pictures of Poe's diseased psyche seem to materialize before your eyes: rotting castles, scurrying rat-things, the walking-dead in their pale shrouds seem to vibrate in the air as the words of the world's greatest macabre storyteller ripple the ether!

- |           |  |               |
|-----------|--|---------------|
| <b>#1</b> | <b>THE BLACK CAT • THE SPHINX • IMP OF THE PERVERSE</b><br>Read by Martin Donegan Tales of a vindictive cat's ghost, an odd-sized monster, and a study in madness. #2318 SHORT STORIES OF EDGAR ALLEN POE, #1  | <b>\$4.49</b> |
| <b>#2</b> | <b>THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER</b><br>Poe's greatest tale, read complete by Martin Donegan. The first creeping story of Southern decadence & evil. #2319 SHORT STORIES OF EDGAR ALLEN POE, #2   | <b>\$4.49</b> |
| <b>#3</b> | <b>MORELLA • SHADOW: A PARABLE • THE OBLONG BOX</b><br>The possession of a daughter by a mother's ghost, the spirit of Shadows arrives, and a Weird coffin. #2320 SHORT STORIES OF EDGAR ALLEN POE, #3   | <b>\$4.49</b> |
| <b>#4</b> | <b>A DESCENT INTO THE MAELSTROM</b><br>Read by Ugo Toppo with relish, you are dragged into a whirlpool with many things long-dead a-swirling! #2321 SHORT STORIES OF EDGAR ALLEN POE, #4   | <b>\$4.49</b> |
| <b>#5</b> | <b>DOUBLE SET</b><br><b>THE GOLD BUG • SELECTED POEMS</b><br>Read by Martin Donegan, Poe's Complete short novel of fiendish haunted treasure is stunning! And the poems include Spirits of the Dead & Conqueror Worm! #2322 SHORT STORIES OF POE, #5 | <b>\$9.49</b> |
| <b>#6</b> | <b>BERNICE • SILENCE: A FABLE • CASK OF AMONTILLADO</b><br>A man fears his wife's teeth, a demon unfolds a world of unspoken dread, & deathly masonry. #2323 SHORT STORIES OF EDGAR ALLEN POE, #6  | <b>\$4.49</b> |
| <b>#7</b> | <b>TELL-TALE HEART • MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH</b><br>And two others, read by Martin Donegan. The Oval Portrait and Metzengerstein 4 of the best! #2324 SHORT STORIES OF EDGAR ALLEN POE, #7   | <b>\$4.49</b> |

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.



# MONSTER MAKE-UP & HORROR MAKE-UP KITS

with exclusive "FLEX FLESH"

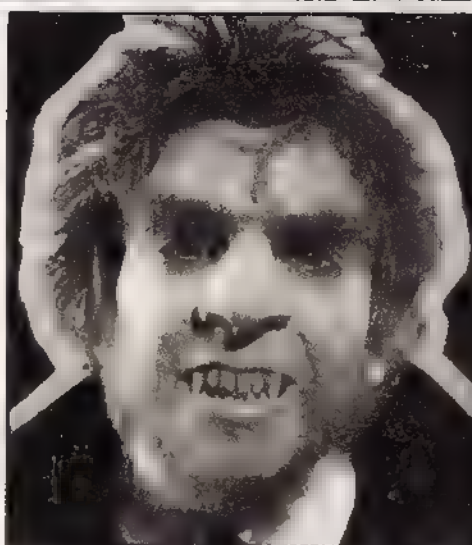
## MONSTER MAKE-UP KIT



BEFORE



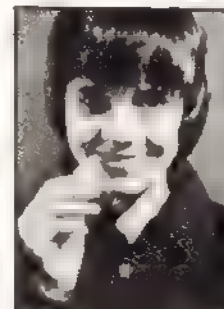
IN PROGRESS



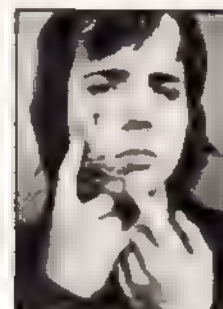
Now you can transform yourself into such famous movie and TV monsters as the Hunchback of Notre Dame, Frankenstein, Mr. Hyde or devise your own thing! This kit was created by Dick Smith who did the make-up for The Exorcist and The Godfather! It contains the amazingly realistic Flex Flesh with molds, coloring, adhesive, teeth, hair, blood and an illustrated manual! #26009 MONSTER MAKE-UP \$19.95

## HORROR MAKE-UP KIT

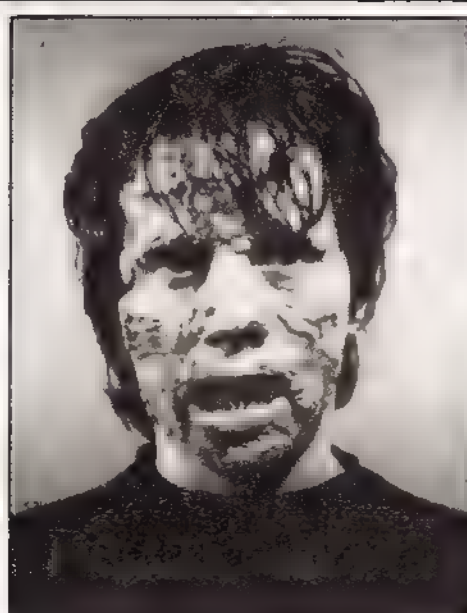
Make-Up Artist in your own home! The instructions and material for more than 20 disfigurements are contained in set!



BEFORE



IN PROGRESS

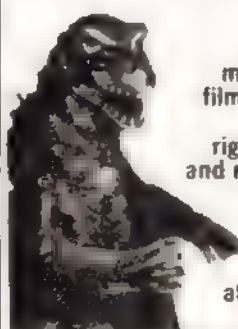


If you want to film a home-made horror flick or just terrify your friends, then here is the kit for it! Created by Dick (Godfather, Exorcist) Smith, this make-up package contains Flex Flesh which when mixed with water hardens into molds - noses, eyes, ears, lips, cheeks of burnt, scarred or decaying flesh! Buy it today! #26008 MAKE-UP HORROR \$13.95

# MONSTER-GLOW-KITS! HORROR MOVIE FIENDS TO BUILD

CREATE YOUR OWN CLASSIC HORROR FILM CHARACTERS! LIFE-LIKE MODELS MADE OF STYRENE PLASTIC. PAINT THEM WITH QUICK-DRY ENAMEL AND WATCH THEM GLOW IN THE DARK!

### GODZILLA



He's 8½' tall. He glows. Godzilla is the most popular Japanese film monster ever! Watch out - he will prowl right through your room and rampage through your closets & shelves! Create your own monster model and make him act at your very command! Order #2413 \$3.50

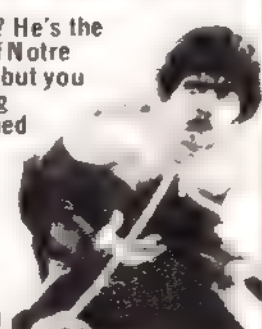
### DR. JEKYLL AS MR. HYDE

Clutching his neck in agony, his skin feeling strange, hair starts to sprout quickly over his entire body. His soul, too, is warping, growing malignant! Make your own Dr. Jekyll and transform him into a raving madman! A model kit you surely can be proud of. #2401/\$3.00



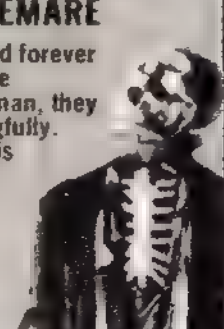
### HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

Who is Quasimodo? He's the famed bell ringer of Notre Dame. Ugly as sin, but you will love assembling his morbid, deformed body. He has suffered many a torture. See what he will be able to take from you! And to top it off, he glows! Order now. #2408/\$3.00



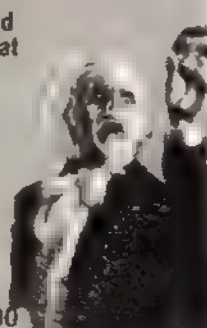
### FORGOTTEN PRISONER OF CASTLEMARE

Chained then, now, and forever to the prison wall in the dungeon. He was the man, they say, was cursed wrongfully. Maybe you can free this "glow" creature! Or he might curse you! The cursed castle is not a place for anyone to be - not even if you are a skeleton. Order #2406/\$3.00



### PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Erik, the vile and tortured mad Phantom of the great Paris Opera House. Horrid glow in the dark face of sheer terror! Scarred and torn damaged face. Eyes popping in hatred for all the world! He stands 9" high, in all his glory! Paint him. Adore him. Order now. #2405/\$3.00



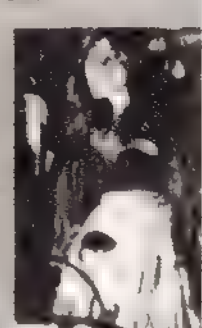
### KING KONG

Who's the Kong of Kongs? The first and best beast of them all! He is the giant and he lumbers over 9" tall, with a tiny, fragile female victim writhing in his paw! You can bring him back to life to "glowingly" prowl forever, on your hobby shelf. Don't hesitate!! #2414 \$3.50



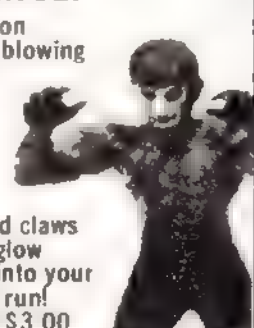
### OLD WITCH

You've seen her everywhere, from Macbeth to Oz to the House on Haunted Hill! No curse is complete without her. What complete hobbyist can look into his broken mirror each sunset and admit he doesn't own this spell-bopper? Over 8" high, glow model kit. #2427 \$3.00



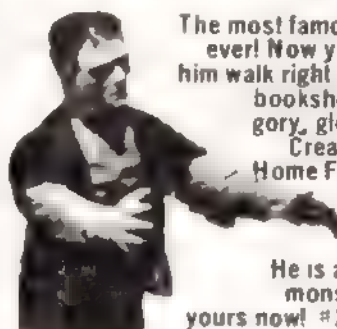
### WEREWOLF

There's a bad moon on the rise. The wind is blowing through the leaves. Ghostly grey evening air is filled with the sound of a ferocious wild beast - then he strikes! His fangs and claws blind you with their glow. You feel talons sink into your arm - and you try to run! No escaping #2407 \$3.00



### FRANKENSTEIN

The most famous monster ever! Now you can have him walk right across your bookshelf, in all his gory, glowing glory. Create your own Home Frankenstein Movies. Play or display. He is a 10½" high monstrosity! Get yours now! #2402/\$3.00



### DRACULA

Here you have 9" of nerve numbing terror! That's what this model of the nefarious Count is. His hands are outstretched as he beckons his next victim. It might be you! Help a vampire get it together, kitwise. It's a must for you! #2404/\$3.00



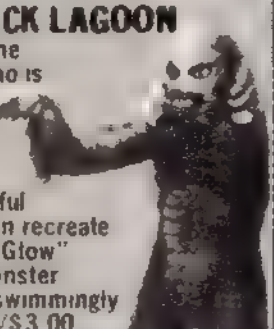
### MUMMY

Stalking stealthily forth from the tomb of the evil Pharaohs, he plods! His shroudlike bandages that now hang in foul tatters woven, when magic ruled the world! Now he crawls and creeps onward... plodding... to get you! The Mummy hobby-model kit will glow its way into your moth-eaten heart. Order today. #2403/\$3.00



### CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON

Now try and build the gurgling gill-man who is merely 300,000 years young! He is one of the most thrilling folk heroes of the frightful fifties. And you can recreate him to perfection! "Glow" on and try. This monster can be assembled swimmingly easy. Order #2409/\$3.00

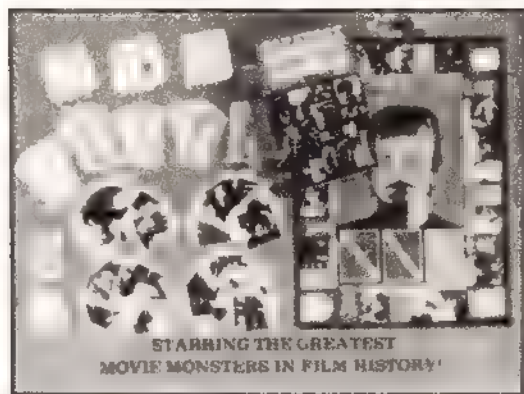




# CREATURE FEATURE THE GAME OF HORROR

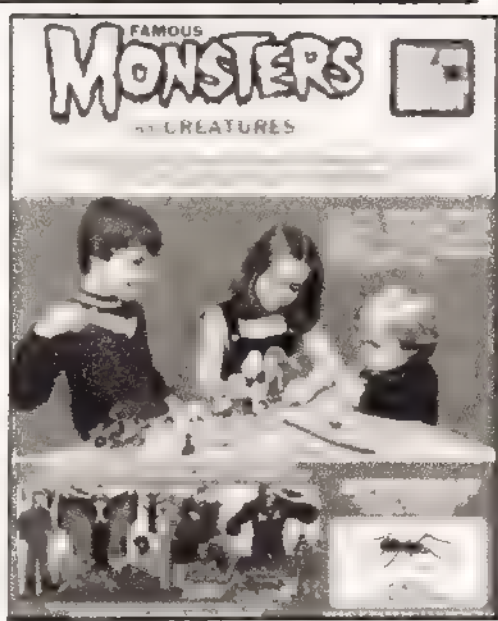


Be a famous monster and go on to fortune and win awards or become a flop to die penniless in oblivion. The choice is up to you! Included in this fabulous game is a giant game board (17"x23"), 32 photo cards of famous monsters, dice, tokens, play money, more! #24167/\$7.00



## FAMOUS MONSTERS STAND-UP KIT

Create your own table top horror shows with this FAMOUS MONSTERS AND CREATURES Stand Up Set. Included are two frightening scenes on heavy cardboard. Punch out the creatures & place them in their stands along with trees, skulls, tombstones, etc. You're now ready to devise your own dramas starring film horrors like Kong, Mummy, Phantom of the Opera, Creature from the Black Lagoon, Wolfman, Dracula & Frankenstein! To add the final touches, there are spiders, bats and a red Salamander. Bonus! Plastic Spider! FM STAND UP SET #24166/\$1.75



## MONSTER MAKE-UP LAB

This Kit will turn your face into a thing of horror. What's so different about this kit? It is low priced with glowing parts! WEREWOLF #26004/\$1.98



First you apply the Face Stuff, then cotton (included) then the Face Stuff again. Allow it to dry and you're done! It's easy! MUMMY #26005/\$1.98

## PREHISTORIC KITS



NEANDERTHAL MAN He has detailed human features (for as human as he is) The kit is 4-1/2" high and is fun to make. Display him proudly! Order #2421/\$2.50

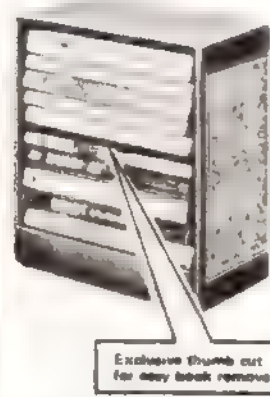


CRO-MAGNON WOMAN No one knows her age, but she is over 4" tall and looks like she's scared to death! Build her and then display her. Order #2422/\$2.50

## PLASTIC MODEL SCENES!

## PAPERBACK BOOK CASES!

Your favorite paperback books deserve a good, dirt free, home. Keep them in these handsome cases with padded leatherette coverings, embossed in gold leaf. Choice of 4 colors: black, brown, green or red. Tilted back shelves prevent book fall out. Also, gold foil for your name.



STORE 15 BOOKS  
ATTRACTIVELY!

STORES APP. 15 BOOKS  
13-1/4"H, 8"D, 4-3/4"W  
#2680/\$7.95 ea.

HOLDS APP. 11 BOOKS  
9-1/4"H, 8"D, 4-3/4"W  
#2681/\$6.50 ea.

# FULL COLOR MONSTER MOVIES

8mm and SUPER 8mm FILMS BY HARRYHAUSEN IN BW OR COLOR

Now you can own these Regular or Super 8mm home movies, each one an acknowledged masterpiece of the fantasy genre. Created by Ray Harryhausen, the world's greatest special effectsman, these films feature some of the most astounding monsters and scenes of devastation ever filmed. And, if you journey with Jason in search of the Golden Fleece, or with Sinbad to the demonic isle of Colossa, there's the added dimension of color. The colors full and crisp; so much so that you will feel as if you are right in the midst of the action! Each film is a full 200' in length and runs a total of twelve minutes. A complete set of Jason or Sinbad adventures runs close to a full hour!

## THE 4 FILMS OF 7TH VOYAGE OF SINBAD

### CHAPTER ONE "The Cyclops"

Sinbad and his men interrupt their lengthy voyage with a stop on the dangerous Colossa Island. There, they seek food and water. Upon landing, they are met by the evil magician Sokurah who is being chased by an enormous Cyclops. It's an incredible battle between men and monster... until the genie of the lamp intervenes! BW: #22006/\$9.95 Color: \$19.95 #22030

### CHAPTER TWO "Strange Voyage"

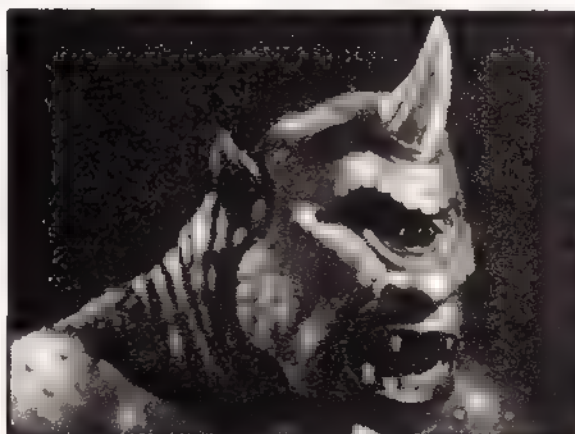
Sinbad's beloved Princess Parisa is reduced to six inches in height. Only a piece of shell from the egg of the monstrous Colossa bird the Roc can restore her to normal. But the seas back to Colossa are fraught with danger... such as evil winds, mutinous sailors... and the ear-piercing Sirens. Will Sinbad's ship survive? BW: \$9.95/#22007 Color: \$19.95 #22031

### CHAPTER THREE "Evil Magician"

Sinbad and his men reach Colossa, and scale the craggy peaks to the Roc's nest. There, they do battle with the great two-headed bird, and Sinbad is captured by the monster. If that weren't enough, a living human skeleton is brought to life by Sokurah to menace the adventurous seamen. And there are still surprises galore! BW: \$9.95/#22008 Color: \$19.95 #22032

### CHAPTER FOUR "Dragon's Lair"

After returning the princess to her normal size, Sokurah looses his fire-breathing dragon after Sinbad and Parisa. Just as he's about to get them, the Cyclops comes to their rescue. A battle to the death ensues, and the one-eyed creature is beaten. The dragon chases the pair to the sea... where it is a light of fights! BW: \$9.95/#22009 Color: \$19.95/#22033



## THE 4 FILMS OF JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS

### CHAPTER ONE "Battle With Talos"

Jason and his hearty Argonauts brave incredible peril to find the legendary Golden Fleece. And their first obstacle is an island on which lives the indestructible Man of Bronze known as Talos. Hundreds of feet tall, weapons are useless against the metal monster. Can he be stopped? BW: \$9.95/#22010 Color: \$19.95/#22034

### CHAPTER TWO "Triton, Lord of the Deep"

The next impasse is the infamous menace of the Clashing Rocks. These are mountains in the sea that are alive! Jason must pass thru them... and faces destruction. Then, as doom nears, the giant God Triton comes to the rescue. And a surprise awaits Jason: in the waters floats a beautiful young girl! BW: \$9.95/#22011 Color: \$19.95 #22035

### CHAPTER THREE "Hydra of Hades"

After being captured by the inhabitants of Colchis, land of the Golden Fleece, Jason breaks free. Then, in a diamond and gold studded cave, he finds the Fleece. But guarding it is the Hydra, a seven-headed dragon. It kills one of Jason's men... and then goes after the hero himself! Exciting! BW: \$9.95/#22012 Color: \$19.95/#22036

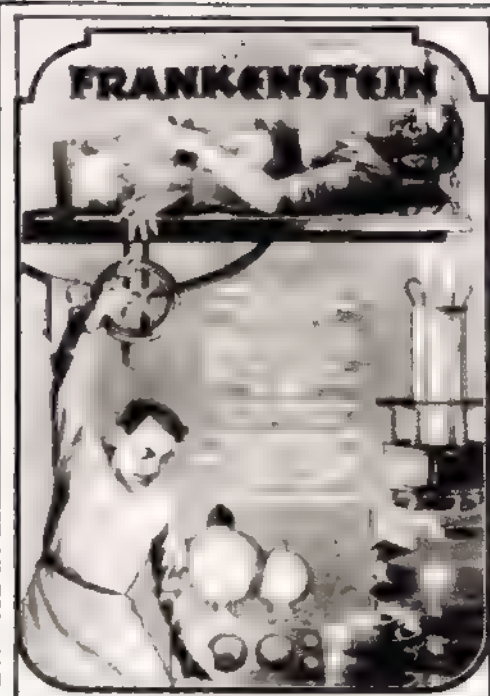
### CHAPTER FOUR "Golden Fleece"

Jason and his men grab the Fleece and run! But their way is barred, first, by a flaming fireball from the sky... and second by an army of killer skeleton warriors. These grew from the teeth of the dead Hydra. And the nine skeletons battle Jason and two men in an incredible finale. Two men die. BW: \$9.95/#22013 Color: \$19.95/#22037



To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.





**FRANKENSTEIN** Full Color  
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# FANTASTIC POSTERS

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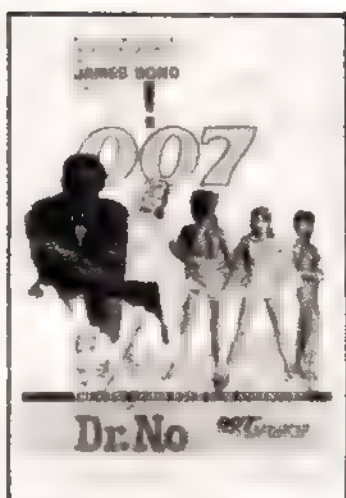


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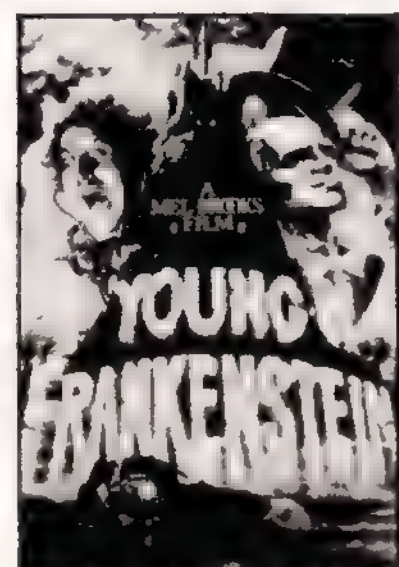
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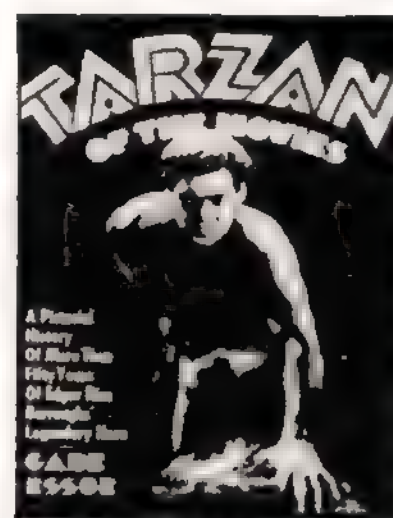
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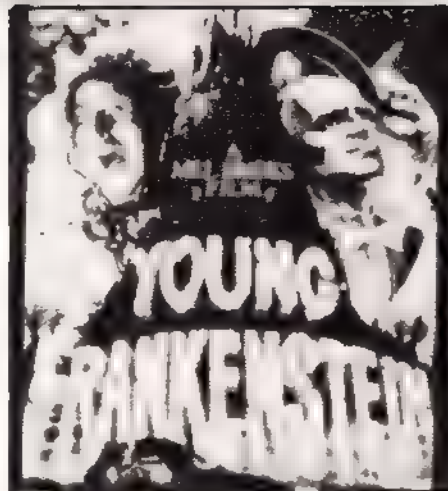
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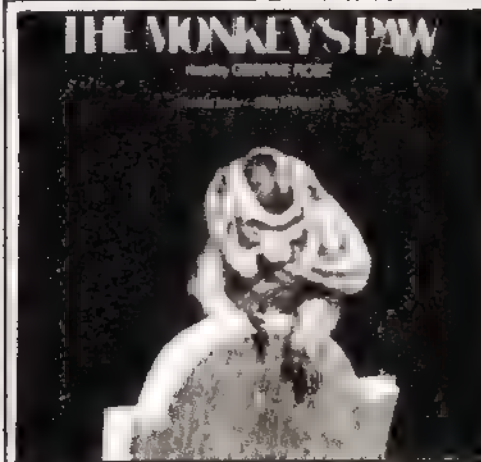
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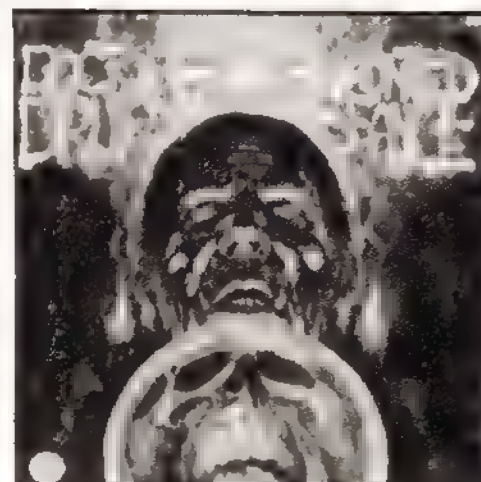
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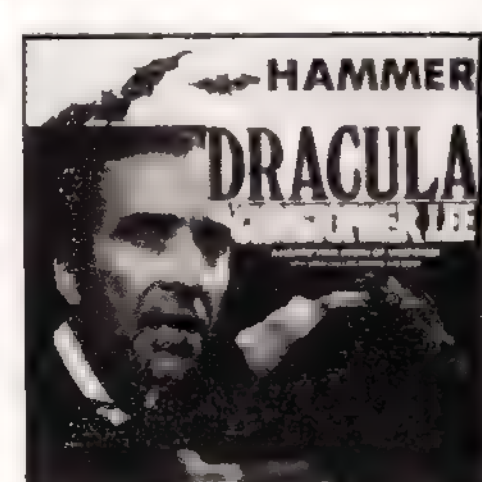
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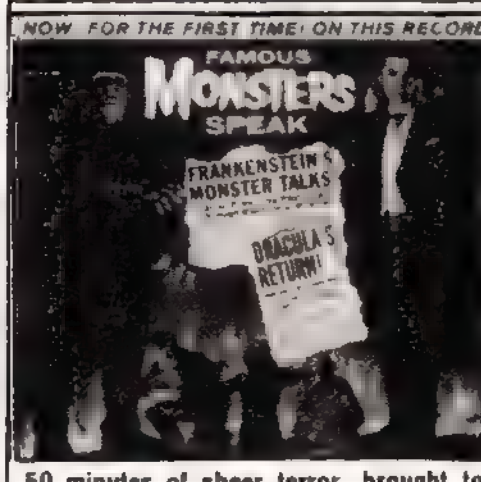
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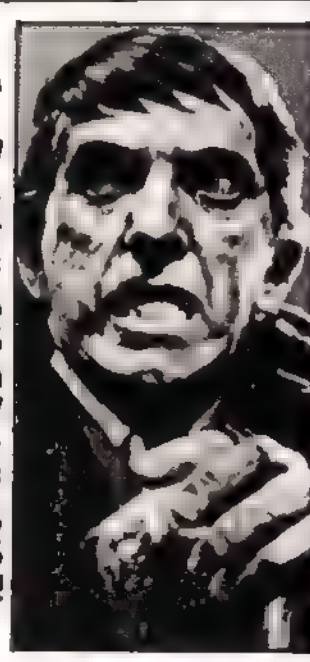


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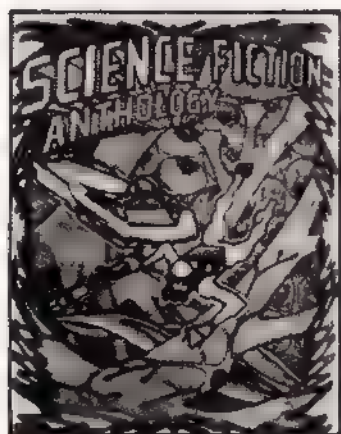




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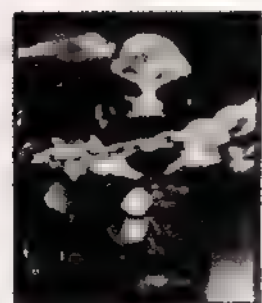
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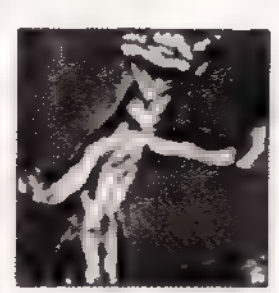
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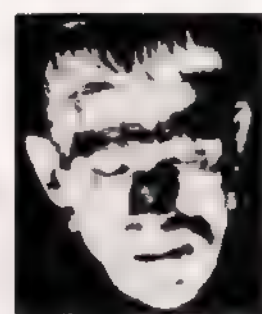
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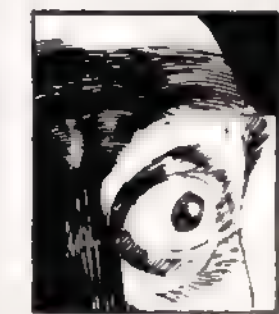
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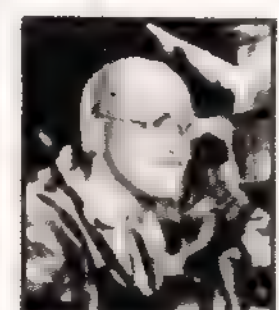
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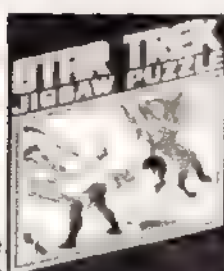
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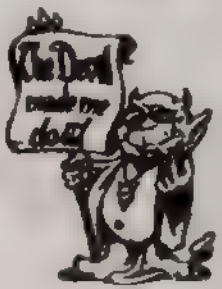


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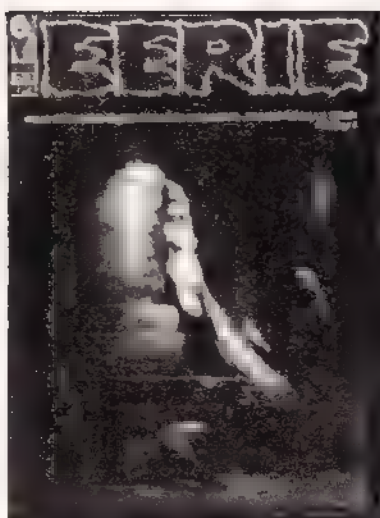


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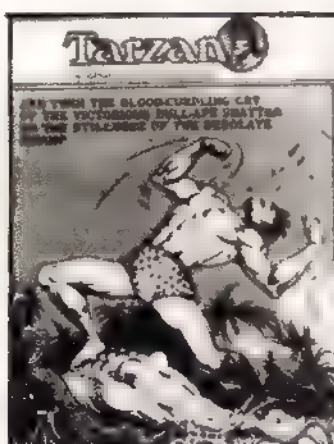
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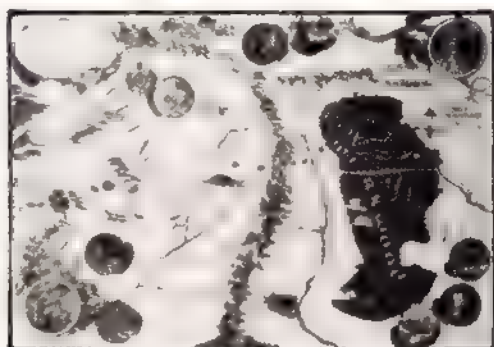


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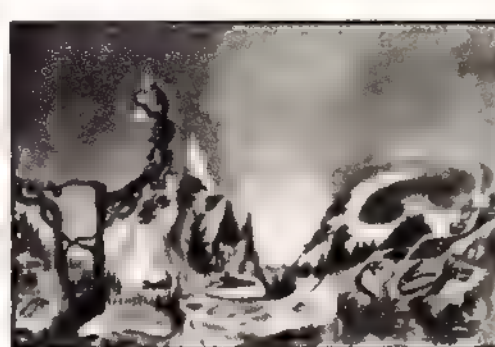
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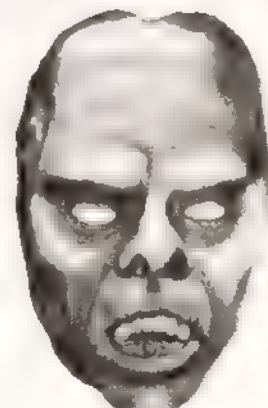
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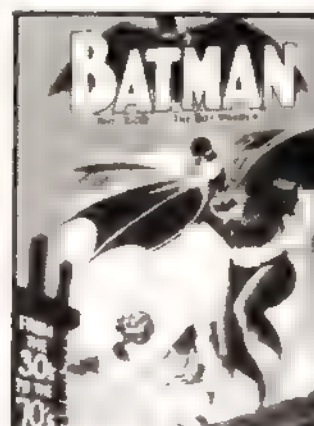
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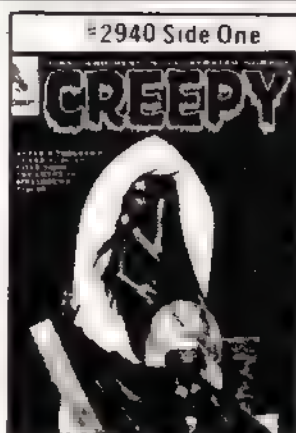
## COUSIN EERIE



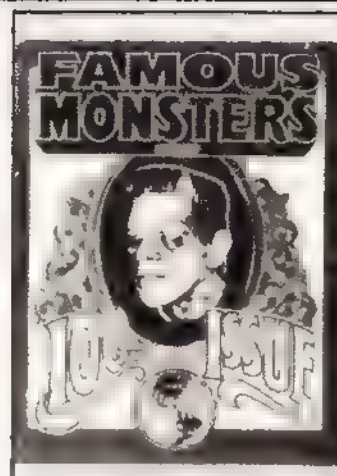
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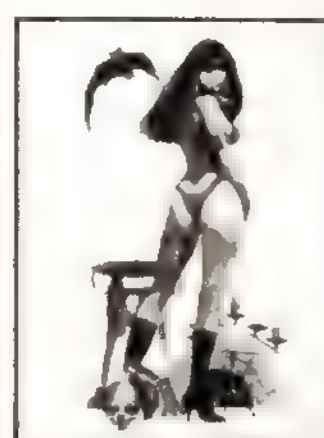
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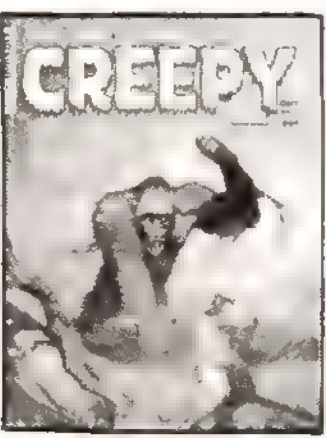
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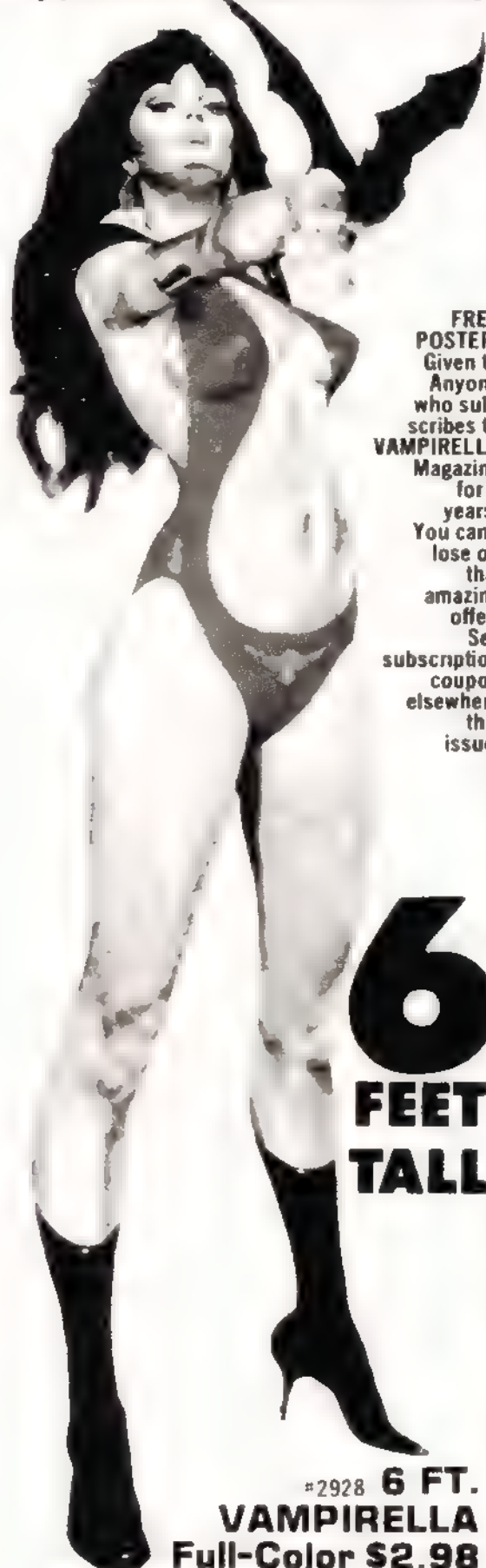


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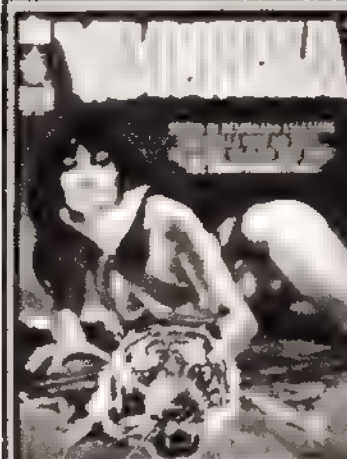
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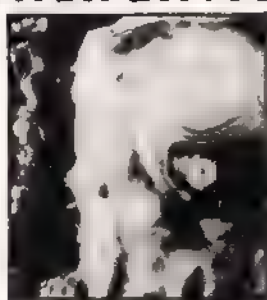
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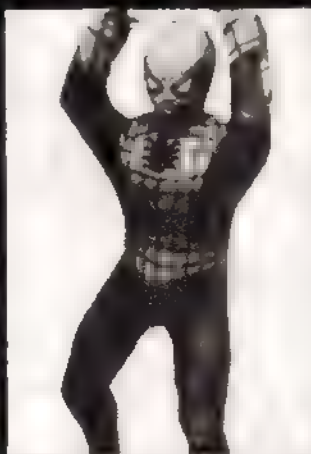
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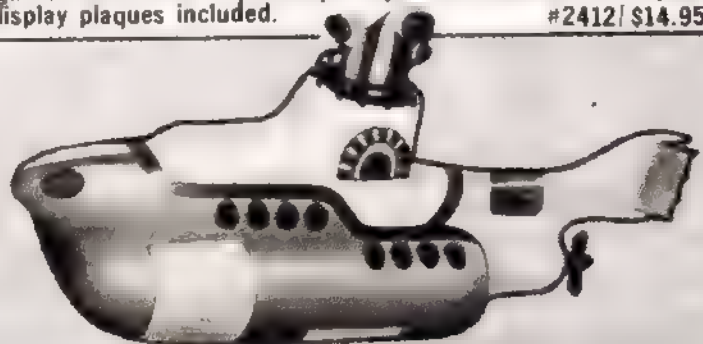
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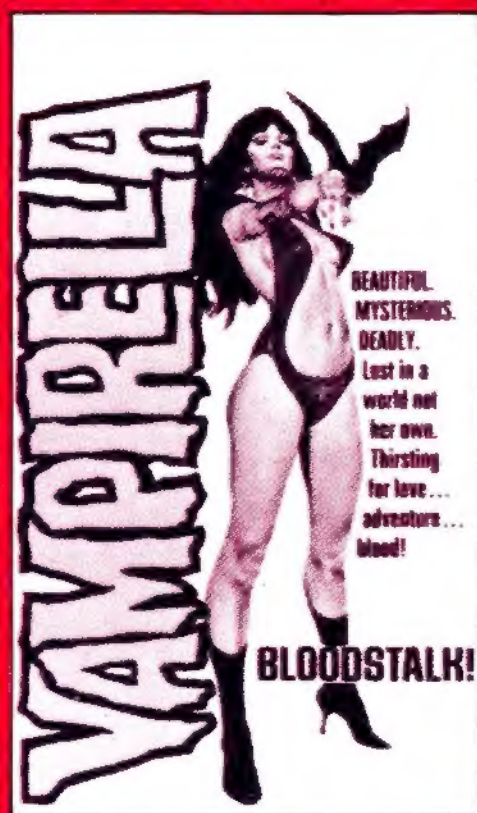
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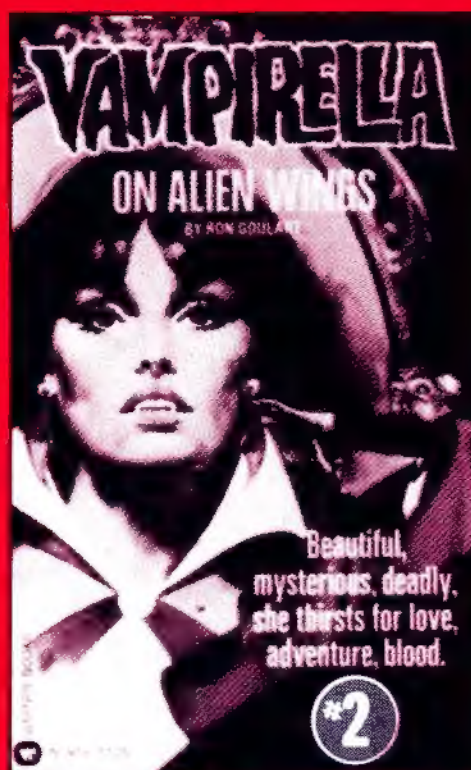
**VAMPIRELLA-54**



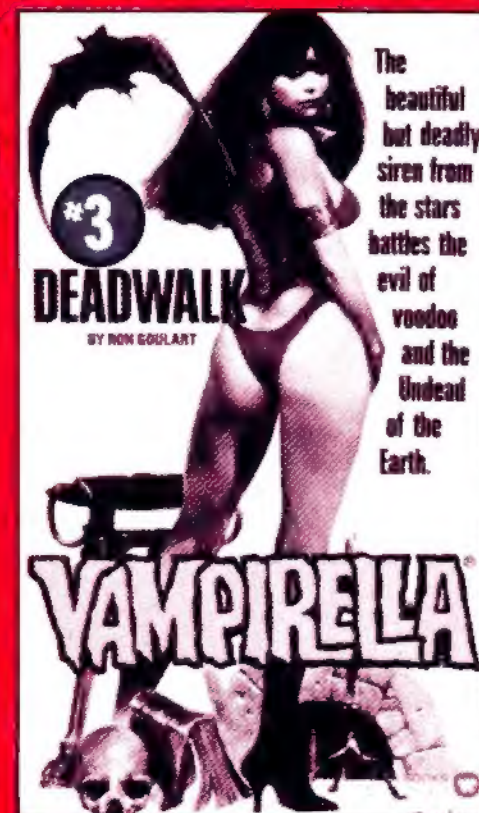
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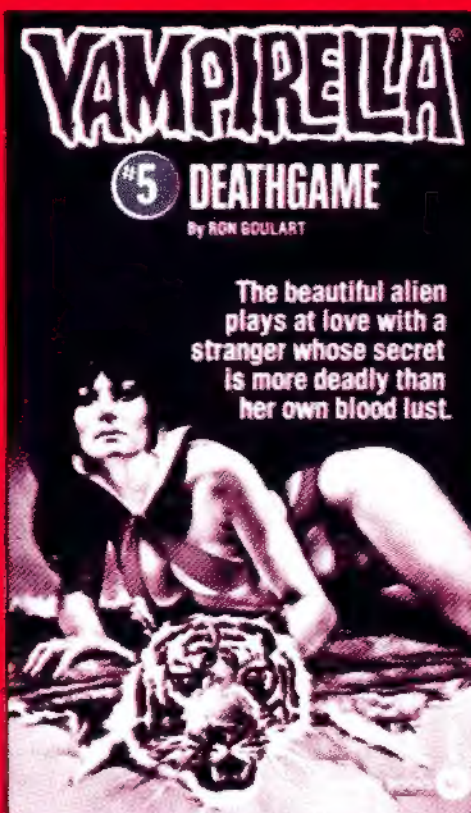
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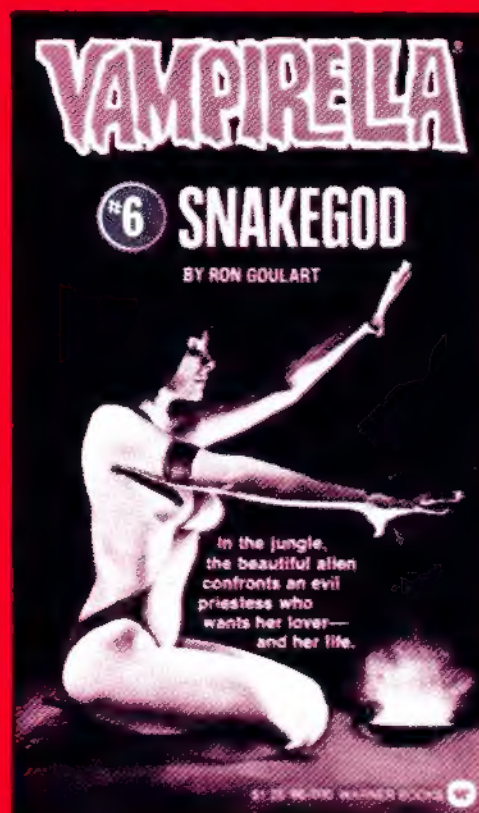
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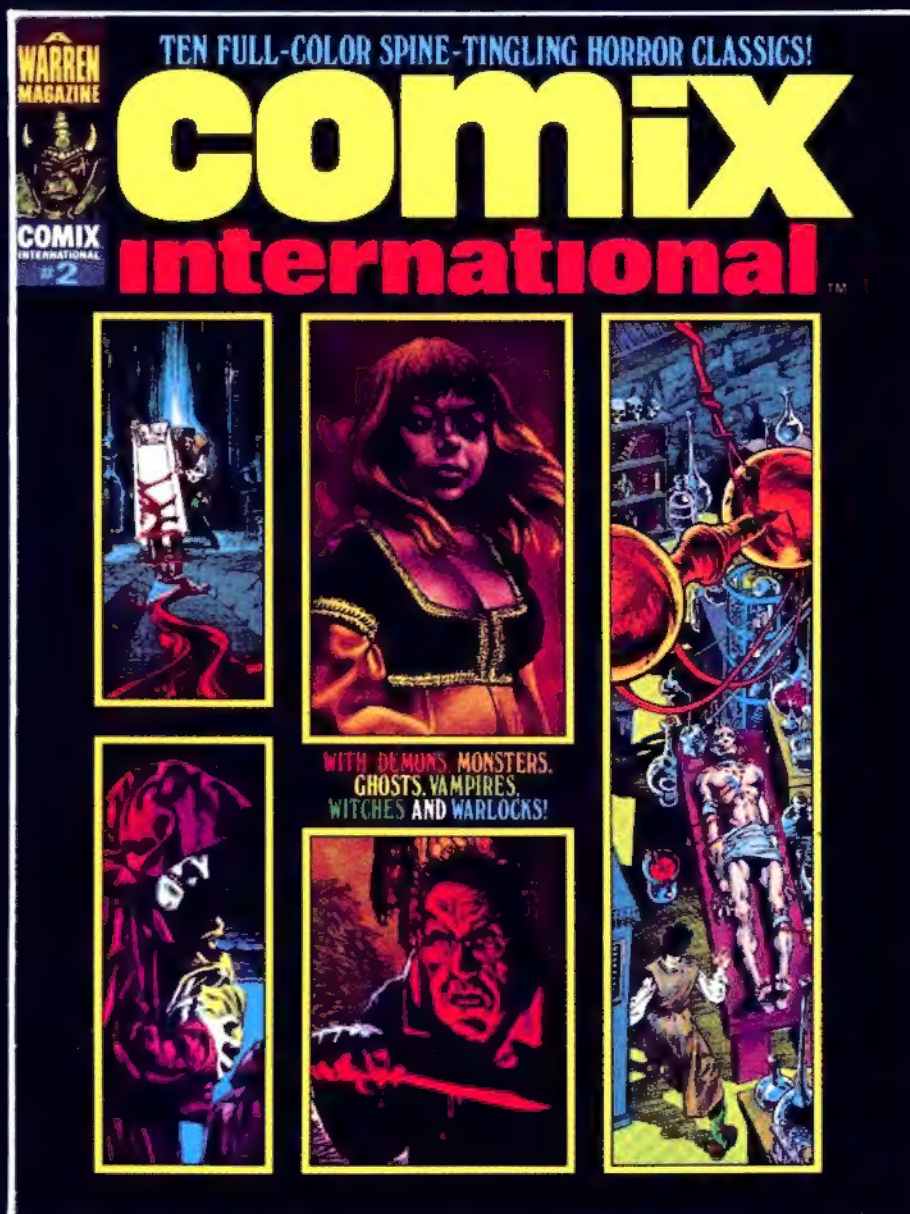
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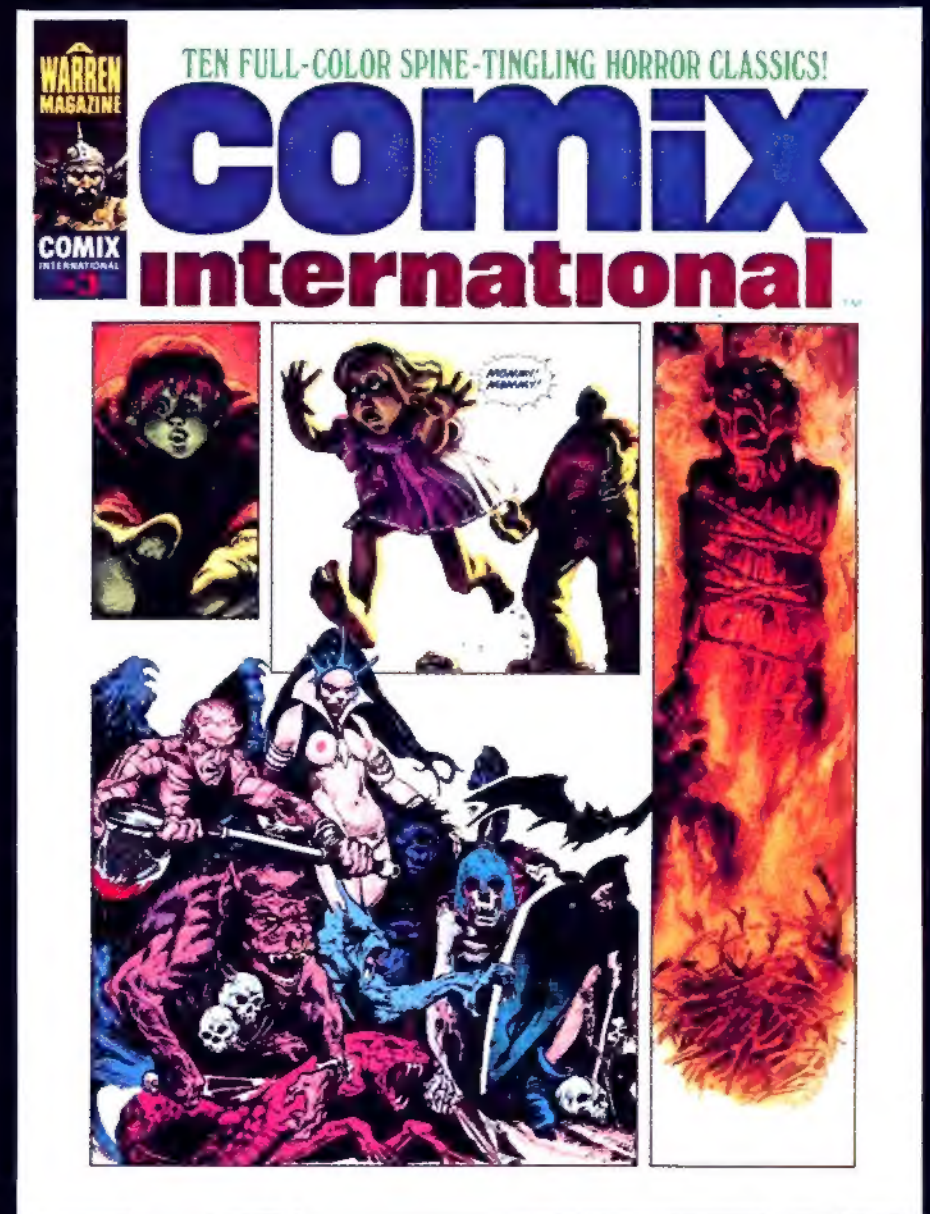
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COMIX INTERNATIONAL No. 3



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